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A Portrait of Families in Canada

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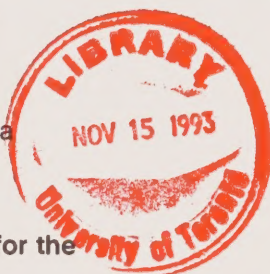
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A Portrait of Families in Canada

Target groups project



Years of *Ans*
Excellence *d'excellence*

Pina La Novara

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HIGHLIGHTS

- The vast majority of Canadians live in some kind of family setting. In 1991, 83% of the population lived in a family as a spouse, parent or never-married child, though, this is down from 87% in 1971. Overall, there were about 7.4 million families in Canada in 1991, a 46% increase from 1971 when there were just 5.1 million families.
- The majority of families are headed by married couples. In 1991, 77% of all families were married-couple families. This is down, however, from 1981 when these families represented 83% of all families. As well, there has been an increase in the share of married-couple families without children living at home. In 1991, 38% of these families did not have any children living at home, compared with 34% in 1981.
- The increase in the proportion of married couples without children was accounted for by growth in the number of these families in the empty-nest phase of the life cycle, that is, their children are no longer living at home. In 1991, over two-thirds (67%) of childless married couples had sons or daughters who were no longer living at home, compared with 58% in 1981. In fact, the number of married couples in the empty-nest phase increased 38% between 1981 and 1991, whereas the number of these families without any children at all actually declined in the same period.
- In 1991, 10% of all families were headed by common-law couples, up from 6% in 1981. Indeed, the number of common-law families more than doubled between 1981 and 1991, rising from 357,000 to 726,000. There was also an increase in the proportion of these families with children. In 1991, 42% of common-law couples had at least one child living at home, up from 34% in 1981. Common-law couples, though, are still less likely than their married counterparts to have children at home (62%).
- The number of lone-parent families has also increased dramatically in the last several decades. In 1991, there were 955,000 lone-parent families, more than double the number in 1971 (478,000). As a result, the proportion of families headed by lone parents increased from 9% of all families in 1971 to 13% in 1991. The vast majority of lone-parent families are headed by women. Indeed, since 1971, over 80% of lone parents have been female.
- Canadian families are currently much smaller than they were twenty years ago. In 1991, there was an average of 3.1 persons per family, down from 3.7 in 1971. The decline in average family size can be traced largely to the fact that families currently have fewer children at home than in the past. In 1991, there was an average of only 1.2 never-married children living at home per family, compared with 1.4 in 1981 and 1.8 in 1971.
- There has been a rapid increase in the percentage of married women with children who are employed in the paid work force. In 1992, 64% of married women with children less than age 16 were employed, up from 49% in 1981. This trend held even for women with very young children. For instance, 57% of married women whose youngest child was less than age 3 were employed in 1992, up from 40% in 1981. During the same period, the percentage of married women with youngest child aged 3-5 with jobs rose from 46% to 62%.
- Unemployment rates among family members are relatively high, reflecting rates in the overall population. In 1992, 9.2% of persons considered family heads, 9.1% of spouses, and 18.1% of other family members were unemployed. Indeed, the proportion of family heads classified as unemployed in 1992 was greater than at any time since the mid-1970s when just 4% of family heads were unemployed.
- There has been very little overall growth in the real income of Canadian families since the early 1980s. In 1991, the average family income was estimated at \$53,100, only 3% greater than the figure in 1981 (\$51,800), once the effects of inflation were taken into account.
- The proportion of families in the middle-income groups declined in the last decade, while the shares in both the upper and lower ranges increased. For example, in 1991, a total of 54% of all families had incomes between \$30,000 and \$74,999, down from 57% in 1981, again once the effects of inflation were taken into account. During the same period, the percentage of families with incomes over \$75,000 rose from 18% to 20%, while the share with incomes below \$30,000 increased from 25% to 27%.

- In 1991, nearly one million (949,000) Canadian families, 13% of all families, had incomes below Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs. Lone-parent families, especially those headed by women, are characterized by particularly high rates of low income. In 1991, over three out of five (62%) lone-parent families headed by women under age 65 had incomes below the Low Income Cut-offs.
- In 1991, 1.2 million children under the age of 18, 18% of the total, lived in either a lone-parent or two-parent family with low income. Indeed, children are in danger of becoming the poorest age group in Canadian society.
- Women are making an increasingly important contribution to family income. The income of wives represented 26% of all family income in 1991, up from 20% in 1981.
- The share of family income coming from wages and salaries has declined in recent years, falling from 77% in 1981 to 73% in 1991. In contrast, there has been an increase in the proportion of income coming from transfer payments. In 1991, transfers made up 12% of all family income, up from 10% in the late 1980s and double the figure reported in 1971 (6%).
- The majority of Canadian families own their home. In 1992, 74% of all single-family households were homeowners. This was up slightly from 73% in 1986. Two-parent households with children had the highest rate of home ownership (79%) in 1992, while lone-parent households were the least likely to own their home (32%).
- Women continue to spend more hours doing unpaid work than men. For example, in 1992, women whose main activity was keeping house spent up to 8.5 hours per day doing domestic work, primary child care, shopping or volunteer work. Even when employed, women still invest from 4 to 5 hours per day on these activities, between one and two hours more per day than comparable men.
- In the vast majority of cases, women are the victims in family-related homicides. There were 122 female victims of family-related murders, compared with 77 male victims in 1991.
- Wives killed by their husbands or common-law partners represent the single largest group of victims in family-related homicides. In 1991, 43% of all family-related homicides involved a wife killed by her partner.

INTRODUCTION

The structure of family living in Canada is changing. While the large majority of the population continues to live in some form of family setting and married-couple families still make up the largest share of all families, the profile of Canadian families is one of growing diversity. Throughout the past several decades, there have been significant increases in the number of common-law unions and lone-parent families; in the incidence of divorce and remarriage; and in the proportion of women in families, especially those with children, employed in the paid work force. At the same time, both the marriage and birth rates have fallen sharply as has the size of the average family.

This report describes these and other changes that have had an impact on families in recent decades. The information has been integrated from a variety of Statistics Canada sources to provide an overview of the demographic characteristics, employment trends, income, housing and activity patterns of families.

This material will be of particular interest to agencies and individuals involved in analysing, planning, developing and/or implementing the delivery of social services to Canadians. It will also be of special interest to those concerned with issues related to family organization, as well as those dealing with questions such as the division of labour in the family, the provision of child care services and domestic violence.

Much of the information in this report has been extracted from Statistics Canada publications. However, a number of series include previously unpublished data from sources, such as the General Social Survey, the Household Facilities and Equipment Survey, the Survey of Consumer Finances and

the Labour Force Survey. Because the data in this report are drawn from different sources, the reference periods, concepts and universes may vary.

There are also differences between the surveys in the definitions, concepts and universes as they apply to families. For instance, the families described in this report are generally defined in one of two ways. Census families include married couples and common-law couples with or without never-married children living at home, as well as lone-parent families. Economic families, on the other hand, refer to all groups of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling and who are related to each other by blood, marriage, common law or adoption. Those seeking more precise information on data quality and comparability should consult the source publications or contact the Target Groups Project.

Statistics in this report are generally presented at the national level, with provincial breakdowns shown where applicable. As well, historical data have been used to illustrate significant trends.

This report was prepared under the direction of Colin Lindsay, Manager, Target Groups Project, Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division, Statistics Canada. The author also gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Cheryl Sarazin, Jeannine Morissette, Claire Maxwell, Colette Richard and Alex Solis in the preparation and publication of this report.

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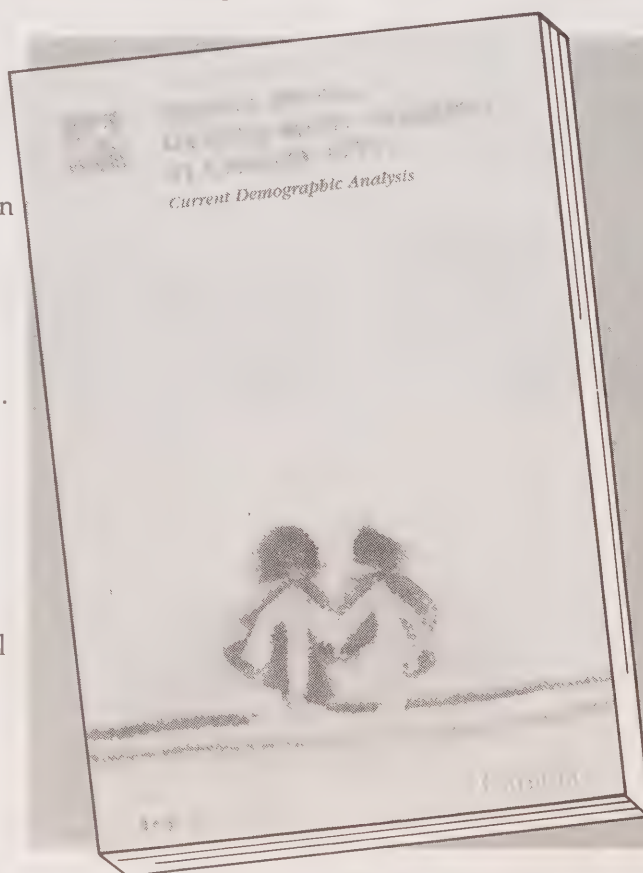
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SECTION 1: FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS

People living in families

There has been considerable speculation recently about the demise of the family in Canada. In reality, however, the vast majority of Canadians continue to live in some kind of family setting. Indeed, in 1991, 83% of the population lived in a family as a spouse, parent or never-married child. The proportion of people living in families, though, has declined in the last two decades, falling from 87% in 1971. (Table 1.1)

Children are the segment of the population most likely to live in a family. In 1991, 97% of all children under age 15 lived in a family. At the same time, over 80% of people in age groups between 15 and 64 also lived in families. (Table 1.2)

In contrast, elderly women are much less likely than younger people to live in a family setting. In fact, in 1991, only 44% of women aged 65 or over lived in a family. Elderly men are also less likely than younger people to live in a family; however, the proportion of these men who were family members in 1991 (73%) was still considerably higher than that for elderly women.

That such a small proportion of elderly women live in a family is due, in large part, to the fact that women generally outlive men by a wide margin, with the

result that many widows end up living alone after their spouses die.

A large majority of the population in all provinces live in families. In 1991, 88% of people in Newfoundland, 85% of those in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, 84% in Nova Scotia, 83% in Ontario, 82% in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Quebec, and 81% in British Columbia and Manitoba were members of a family. (Table 1.3)

Total number of families

While the proportion of the population living in families has declined somewhat in the last two decades, the actual number of families has increased as the population has grown. There were about 7.4 million families in Canada in 1991, a 46% increase from 1971 when there were just 5.1 million families. (Table 1.1)

The rate of growth in the number of families was somewhat faster in the latter half of the 1980s than in the first half of the decade. Between 1986 and 1991, the total number of families rose 9%, compared with just 6% in the 1981-1986 period. Recent growth in the number of families, though, is still below that recorded in the 1970s when the number of families increased 10% between 1976 and 1981 and 13% between 1971 and 1976.

People not living in families

Although still a minority, a growing share of Canadians are living outside of a family setting. In 1991, 17% of the population did not live in a family, up from 13% in 1971. (Table 1.1)

The largest proportion of people not in a family live alone. Over 2.3 million people lived alone during 1991, representing 8% of the total population. This was the same proportion as in 1986, but higher than in 1976 (5%) and 1981 (7%).

The remainder of those not living in a family in 1991 included people living with non-relatives

(6%), those in institutions (2%), and those living with relatives other than a spouse, parent or never-married child (1%).

Not surprisingly, given the distribution of those living in families, elderly women are the most likely not to live in a family, a lifestyle experienced by more than half (56%) of all women aged 65 or over in 1991. In contrast, 27% of men in this age range, 17% of people aged 15-64, and just 3% of those under age 15 did not live in a family. (Table 1.2)

Family structure

There has been considerable change in the distribution of different types of families in the last several decades. Although married-couple families are still the most common form of families, increasing proportions of all families are headed by either common-law partners or lone parents.

A word of caution is required, though, in the interpretation of figures on family structure because families are not static but dynamic. That is to say, family structure is not fixed but can change at any time. For example, a husband-wife family with children could become a lone-parent family through divorce or death of one spouse. By the same token, a lone-parent family could, as a result of remarriage of the parent, become a husband-wife family with children.

Married-couple families

The vast majority of families are headed by a married couple. In 1991, 77% of all families were married-couple families. This is down from 1981 when these families represented 83% of all families. (Table 1.4)

A growing proportion of married-couple families are childless.¹ In 1991, 38% of married-couple families did not have never-married children living at home, up from 34% in 1981. (Table 1.11)

The majority of married-couple families without children are empty-nesters, that is, their children are no longer living at home. In 1991, over two-thirds (67%) of childless married couples had sons or daughters who were no longer living at home, compared with 58% in 1981. In fact, the number of married couples in the empty-nest phase increased 38% between 1981 and 1991, whereas the number of these families without any children at all actually declined in the same period. (Table 1.12)

Married-couple families currently make up the majority of families in every province, though their share in Quebec is somewhat below that in the other provinces. In 1991, 69% of families in Quebec were headed by married couples, whereas in the remaining provinces the figure ranged from 78% in Nova Scotia and British Columbia to 81% in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan and Ontario. (Table 1.5)

Common-law families

Common-law families make up a growing share of all families. In 1991, 10% of all families were headed by common-law couples, up from 6% in 1981. (Table 1.4) Indeed, the number of common-law families more than doubled between 1981 and 1991, rising from 357,000 to 726,000.

In contrast to married-couple families, the majority of common-law couples do not have children living at home. In 1991, just 42% of couples living common law had at least one never-married child living at home, though this was up from 34% in 1981. (Table 1.11)

Common-law families also differ from married-couple units in that most common-law couples without children living at home are childless. In 1991, 76% of common-law couples without children at home had no children at all, while only 26% were empty-nesters. (Table 1.12)

That empty-nesters make up such a small share of childless common-law couples is a reflection of the fact that people living as common-law spouses tend to be relatively young. In 1991, about 60% of people living common-law were aged 15-34. (Table 1.6) Not surprisingly, given this age distribution, most women (64%) and men (63%) in common-law unions had never been married.

Common-law families are most prevalent in Quebec, where they made up 16% of all families in 1991. These families also represented 10% of all families in British Columbia, 9% in Alberta, 8% in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, 7% in Newfoundland, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan and 6% in Prince Edward Island. (Table 1.5)

Lone-parent families

The number of lone-parent families in Canada has also increased dramatically in the last several decades. In 1991, there were 955,000 lone-parent families, more than double the number in 1971 (478,000).² As a result, the proportion of families headed by lone parents increased from 9% of all families in 1971 to 13% in 1991. (Table 1.4)

¹ Childless families include couples who have chosen to remain childless, as well as younger couples who have not yet had children and older couples in the so-called "empty-nest" stage whose children have left home.

² For more information on lone-parent families see **Lone-parent families in Canada**, Statistics Canada Catalogue 89-522E.

The vast majority of lone-parent families are headed by women. Indeed, since 1971, over 80% of lone parents have been female. The higher proportion of female lone parents is partly due to the long-term increase in the divorce rate, with mothers usually receiving custody of children involved in marriage break-up. (See section on "Marriage and Divorce".) There is also a growing incidence of never-married women, especially in 25-34 age range, raising children on their own.

In contrast to people living in common-law situations, who tend to be young adults, lone parents are concentrated in the 35-64 age range. In 1991, 72%

of male lone parents and 57% of their female counterparts were aged 35-64. (Table 1.6)

As with families headed by common-law couples, lone-parent families are most prevalent in Quebec; however, there is considerably less variation in the distribution of lone-parent families across the country than there is with common-law unions. In 1991, over 14% of all families in Quebec had just one parent, compared with around 13% in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Prince Edward Island and Ontario, and 12% in Alberta, British Columbia, Newfoundland and Saskatchewan. (Table 1.5)

Marriage and divorce

Long-term trends in marriage and divorce have played a major role in changes in family structure. In particular, during the last several decades the marriage rate has fallen, while both the age at which people are marrying and the divorce rate have risen.

There were 7.1 marriages per 1,000 population in 1990, compared with over 9.0 in the early 1970s. The current incidence of marriage, however, is up slightly from 1986 when there were just 6.9 marriages per 1,000 people. (Table 1.7)

As well, the actual number of marriages in 1990, at almost 188,000, was up somewhat from the mid-1980s. For instance, in 1986, approximately 176,000 marriages were conducted.

The overall decline in the marriage rate reflects, in part, the fact that people are marrying at later ages. Indeed, the average age at first marriage for both women and men is currently a full three years greater than it was two decades ago. ¶ In 1990, the average age at first marriage for brides was 26.0 years, compared with 22.6 years in 1971. ¶ During the same period, the average age at first marriage of bridegrooms rose from 24.9 years to 27.9. The difference between the average ages of brides and bridegrooms, around two years, however, has not changed significantly.

At the same time, many Canadians are marrying more than once. Approximately one out of every five men (21%) and women (20%) marrying in 1990 had been previously married; this compares with just 8% of men and 7% of women in 1970.

While the marriage rate has fallen, the incidence of divorce has increased dramatically since the late 1960s. Prior to 1968, there were few divorces in Canada. The 1968 *Divorce Act*, however, broadened the legal grounds on which divorce could be granted, with the result that the divorce rate increased more than five times between the late 1960s and the mid-1980s. (Table 1.8)

Restrictions on divorce were further eased when a new *Divorce Act* was passed in 1985. Again, there was a large increase in the number of divorces granted following the introduction of the new legislation. By 1987, the divorce rate had risen to 355 per 100,000 population. However, much of this increase appears to have been accounted for by people who put off divorcing in 1984 and 1985 in anticipation of the revised legislation. Indeed, the divorce rates of 1988 and 1989 dropped back to the 1986 level (around 310 divorces per 100,000 population) and then fell a further 4% in 1990 to 294 divorces per 100,000 people.

Often when marriages dissolve, children are involved and decisions about child custody have to be made by the courts. Regardless of who petitions for the divorce, mothers have been, and continue to be, more likely than fathers to receive custody of the children. For instance, mothers were given custody of 73% of children affected by these court orders in 1990, while 14% of cases involved joint awards to both parents. In only 12% of cases did the father receive custody. (Table 1.9)

Compared to the early 1980s though, the number of children affected by custody orders has decreased. For example, 48,500 children were involved in custody decisions in 1990, down from over 65,000 in 1982.

Family size

Canadian families are currently much smaller than they were twenty years ago. In 1991, there was an average of 3.1 persons per family, down from 3.7 in 1971. However, all this decline took place between 1971 and 1986; in fact, there was no change in average family size between 1986 and 1991. (Table 1.10)

The largest families are found in Newfoundland, where there was an average of 3.3 persons per family in 1991. Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan also had relatively large families, at 3.2 persons per family, while Quebec and British Columbia had the smallest families, with just 3.0 persons per family. The remaining provinces had an average of 3.1 persons per family. (Chart 1.1)

Children in families

The decline in average family size can be traced largely to the fact that families currently have fewer children at home than in the past. In 1991, there was an average of only 1.2 never-married children

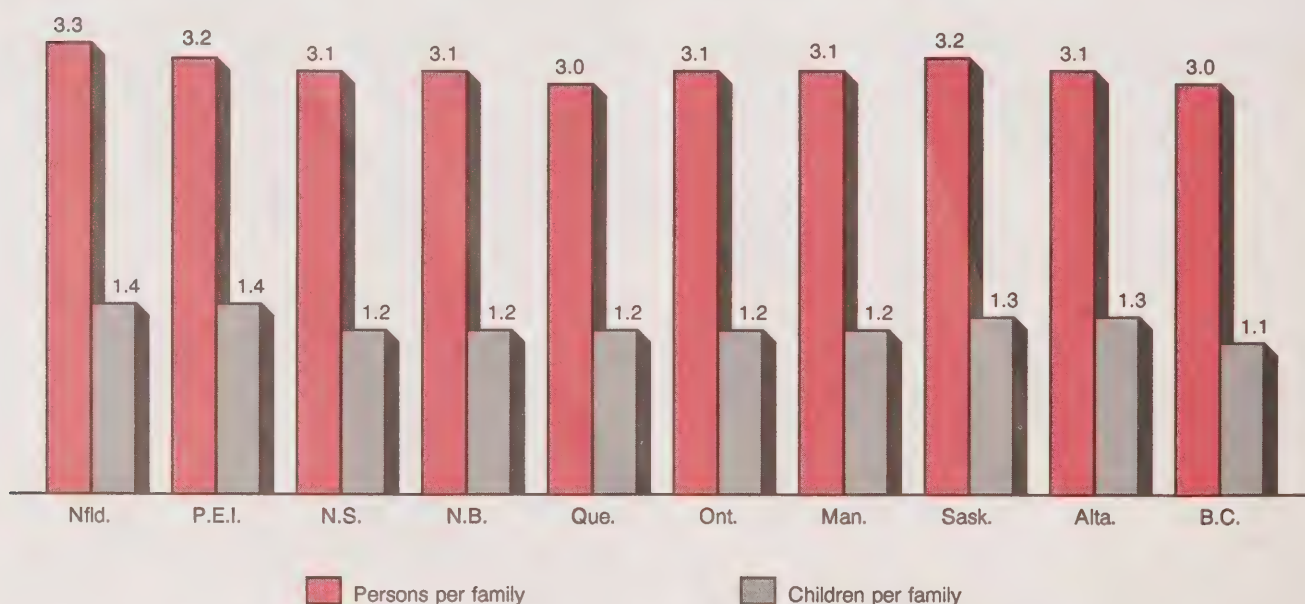
living at home per family, compared with 1.4 in 1981 and 1.8 in 1971. (Table 1.10)

Of families with children, those headed by married couples have the highest number of children per family. In 1991, there was an average of 1.9 children in married-couple families, compared with 1.6 in both common-law families and female lone-parent families, and 1.5 in male lone-parent families. (Table 1.11)

Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island have the largest average number of children per family: 1.4 in 1991. This was followed by Saskatchewan and Alberta (1.3), Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba (1.2) and British Columbia (1.1). (Chart 1.1)

British Columbia has the highest proportion of families without never-married children at home: 40% in 1991. This was followed by Saskatchewan (37%), Manitoba (36%), Ontario and Alberta (35%), Nova Scotia and Quebec (34%), New Brunswick (32%), Prince Edward Island (30%) and Newfoundland (25%). (Table 1.3)

Chart 1.1 Average number of persons and children per family, by province, 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 93-312.

Births

Together with the fact that the number of couples whose children have left home has increased, the fall in the number of children per family reflects a long-term decline in the birth rate. In 1991, there were 14.9 births per 1,000 population, only about half the figure recorded in the 1950s. The current birth rate (14.9), though, is up somewhat from 1987 when

there were just 14.4 births per 1,000 population. (Chart 1.2)

The average age at which women have their first child has increased steadily in the last decade or so. In 1990, the average age of mothers giving birth to their first child was 26.4, a full two years more than in 1978. (Chart 1.3)

Table 1.1

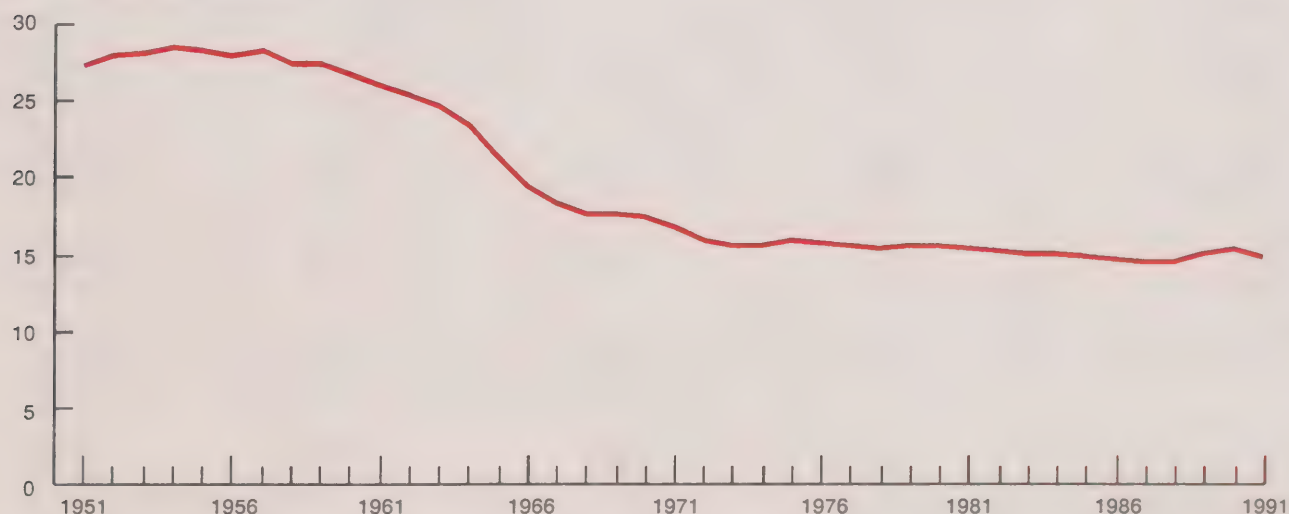
Number of families and percentage of the population in/not in families, 1971-1991

	Number of families	% of the population		Total	Total population
		In families	Not in families		
1971	5,053,165	87.1	12.9	100.0	21,568,310
1976	5,727,895	86.0	14.0	100.0	22,992,600
1981	6,324,975	84.6	15.4	100.0	24,343,180
1986	6,734,980	83.7	16.3	100.0	25,309,330
1991	7,356,170	82.6	17.4	100.0	27,296,855

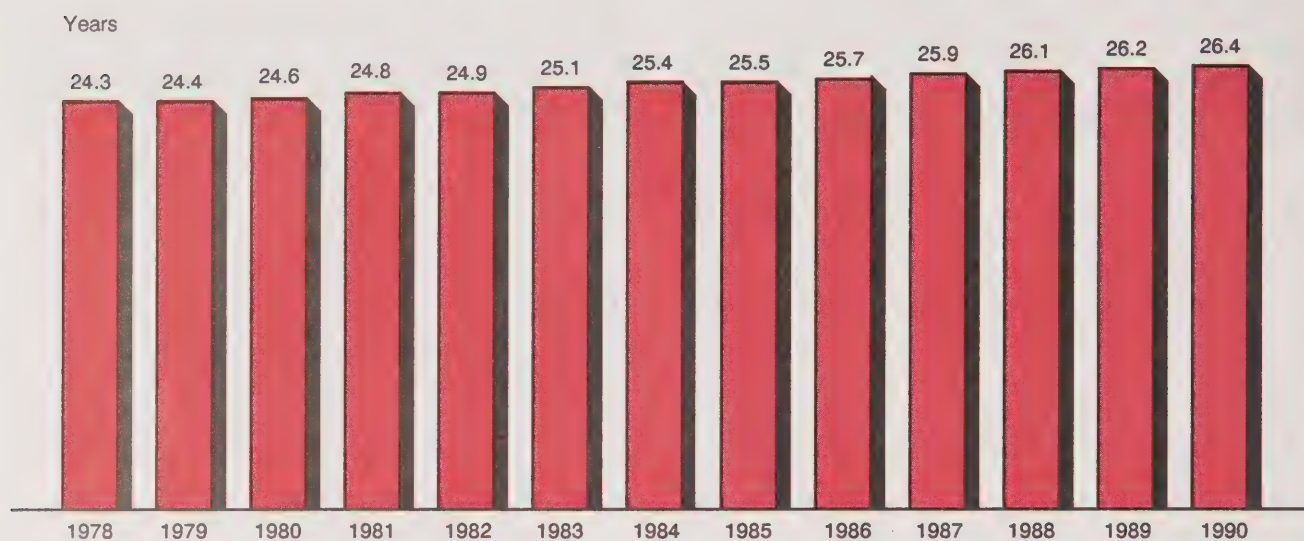
Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 93-310 and 93-312.

Chart 1.2 Birth rate, 1951-1991

Live births per 1,000 population



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-003S14.

Chart 1.3 Average age of mothers at birth of first child, 1978-1990

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 82-003S14 and 84-204.

Table 1.2
Population in/not in families, by age and gender, 1991

	% of the population			Total population
	In families	Not in families	Total	
Age/gender				
Less than 15				
Male	97.1	2.9	100.0	2,916,910
Female	97.1	2.9	100.0	2,775,640
15-24				
Male	82.0	18.0	100.0	1,943,625
Female	84.3	15.7	100.0	1,886,885
25-44				
Male	78.3	21.7	100.0	4,596,115
Female	86.4	13.6	100.0	4,641,845
45-64				
Male	84.4	15.6	100.0	2,667,510
Female	81.8	18.2	100.0	2,698,355
65 or over				
Male	73.1	26.9	100.0	1,330,425
Female	43.8	56.2	100.0	1,839,545

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 93-310 and 93-312.

Table 1.3
Family characteristics, by province, 1991

	% of the population			% of families		
	In families	Not in families	Total	With children at home	Without children at home	Total
Newfoundland	88.3	11.7	100.0	74.9	25.1	100.0
Prince Edward Island	84.6	15.4	100.0	69.7	30.3	100.0
Nova Scotia	83.5	16.5	100.0	66.2	33.8	100.0
New Brunswick	85.0	15.0	100.0	68.1	31.9	100.0
Quebec	82.3	17.7	100.0	65.9	34.1	100.0
Ontario	83.2	16.8	100.0	65.0	35.0	100.0
Manitoba	81.2	18.8	100.0	64.2	35.8	100.0
Saskatchewan	82.3	17.7	100.0	63.3	36.7	100.0
Alberta	82.3	17.7	100.0	65.5	34.5	100.0
British Columbia	80.7	19.3	100.0	59.7	40.3	100.0
Canada	82.6	17.4	100.0	64.9	35.1	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 93-310 and 93-312.

Table 1.4
Family structure, 1971-1991

	Husband-wife families ¹			Lone-parent families			Total	Total number of families
	Married	Common law	Total	Male head	Female head	Total		
				%				000s
1971	..	..	90.5	2.0	7.4	9.4	100.0	5,053.2
1976	..	..	90.2	1.7	8.1	9.8	100.0	5,727.9
1981	83.1	5.6	88.7	2.0	9.3	11.3	100.0	6,325.0
1986	80.1	7.2	87.3	2.3	10.4	12.7	100.0	6,735.0
1991	77.2	9.9	87.0	2.3	10.7	13.0	100.0	7,356.2

¹ Prior to 1981, common-law families were included in the same category as married-couple families.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 92-935, 93-312 and 93-822.

Table 1.5
Family structure, by province, 1991

	Husband-wife families			Lone-parent families			Total	Total number of families
	Married	Common law	Total	Male head	Female head	Total		
	%							000s
Newfoundland	81.4	6.6	88.0	2.2	9.6	11.8	100.0	150.7
Prince Edward Island	81.1	6.0	87.1	2.2	10.7	12.9	100.0	33.9
Nova Scotia	78.2	8.2	86.4	2.2	11.3	13.5	100.0	244.6
New Brunswick	78.6	8.0	86.6	2.3	11.1	13.4	100.0	198.0
Quebec	69.4	16.3	85.7	2.6	11.7	14.3	100.0	1,883.2
Ontario	80.7	6.7	87.4	2.2	10.4	12.6	100.0	2,726.7
Manitoba	79.4	7.4	86.9	2.3	10.8	13.1	100.0	286.0
Saskatchewan	81.4	6.9	88.3	2.1	9.7	11.7	100.0	257.6
Alberta	78.6	9.0	87.6	2.2	10.2	12.4	100.0	668.0
British Columbia	78.3	9.6	87.9	2.2	9.9	12.1	100.0	887.7

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 93-312.

Table 1.6
Age distribution of men and women in families, by family structure, 1991

	Married		Common law		Lone parents	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Age	%					
15-24	1.4	3.3	13.2	22.7	1.4	6.4
25-34	20.0	24.4	41.9	41.3	13.0	24.4
35-44	26.5	26.8	24.5	21.7	31.3	29.8
45-64	35.7	33.1	17.6	12.5	40.6	27.4
65 and over	16.4	12.3	2.7	1.8	13.7	11.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 93-310 and 93-312.

Table 1.7

Marriages and average age at first marriage, 1971-1990

	Number of marriages	Marriages per 1,000 population	Average age at first marriage	
			Brides	Bridegrooms
1971	191,324	8.9	22.6	24.9
1972	200,470	9.2	22.2	24.7
1973	199,064	9.0	22.3	24.7
1974	198,824	8.9	22.4	24.7
1975	197,585	8.7	22.5	24.9
1976	193,343	8.4	22.7	25.0
1977	187,344	8.0	22.8	25.1
1978	185,523	7.9	23.0	25.2
1979	187,811	7.9	23.1	25.4
1980	191,069	8.0	23.3	25.5
1981	190,082	7.8	23.5	25.7
1982	188,360	7.6	23.7	25.9
1983	184,675	7.4	24.0	26.2
1984	185,597	7.4	24.3	26.5
1985	184,096	7.3	24.6	26.7
1986	175,518	6.9	24.8	27.0
1987	182,151	7.1	25.2	27.4
1988	187,728	7.2	25.5	27.6
1989	190,640	7.3	25.7	27.8
1990	187,737	7.1	26.0	27.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-003S16.

Table 1.8

Divorces, 1971-1991

	Number of divorces	Divorces per 100,000 population
1968	11,343	54.8
1969	26,093	124.2
1970	29,775	139.8
1971	29,685	137.6
1972	32,389	148.4
1973	36,704	166.1
1974	45,019	200.6
1975	50,611	222.0
1976	54,207	235.8
1977	55,370	237.7
1978	57,155	243.4
1979	59,474	251.3
1980	62,019	259.1
1981	67,671	278.0
1982	70,436	285.9
1983	68,567	275.5
1984	65,172	259.4
1985	61,980	244.4
1986	78,160	308.8
1987	90,985	355.1
1988	79,872	308.1
1989	80,716	307.8
1990	78,152	294.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-003S17.

Table 1.9
Custody of children involved in divorces, 1978-1990

	Custody given to						Total divorces involving custody decisions
	Mother	Father	Joint	Other person/ agency	No Award	Total	
	%						
1978	78.7	15.6	..	0.3	5.4	100.0	59,436
1979	78.8	15.8	..	0.2	5.3	100.0	57,856
1980	78.2	16.0	..	0.2	5.5	100.0	59,600
1981	77.9	15.8	..	0.3	6.0	100.0	62,434
1982	77.1	15.6	..	0.2	6.9	100.0	65,441
1983	74.9	15.7	..	0.2	9.1	100.0	64,221
1984	74.3	15.5	..	0.2	10.0	100.0	60,063
1985	72.8	15.2	..	0.3	11.8	100.0	56,336
1986	71.9	15.3	1.2	0.4	11.2	100.0	60,450
1987	74.7	13.6	7.4	0.2	4.0	100.0	53,699
1988	75.8	12.9	10.1	0.3	1.0	100.0	50,249
1989	74.1	12.8	12.4	0.2	0.4	100.0	50,333
1990	73.2	12.3	14.1	0.2	0.2	100.0	48,525

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 82-003S16, 82-003S17 and 84-205.

Table 1.10
Average family size and families with children, 1971-1991

	Persons per family	% of families			Average number of children per family
		With children	Without children	Total	
1971	3.7	73.2	26.8	100.0	1.8
1976	3.5	69.9	30.1	100.0	1.6
1981	3.3	68.2	31.8	100.0	1.4
1986	3.1	67.3	32.7	100.0	1.3
1991	3.1	64.9	35.1	100.0	1.2

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 92-935, 93-312 and 93-823.

Table 1.11

Families with children, by family structure, 1971-1991

	1971	1976	1981	1986	1991
Total families					
% with children	73.2	69.9	68.2	67.3	64.9
% without children	26.8	30.1	31.8	32.7	35.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average number of children	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.2
Married-couple families					
% with children	68.3	66.6	66.2	64.8	62.0
% without children	31.7	33.4	33.8	35.2	38.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average number of children ¹	2.5	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.9
Common-law families²					
% with children	..	..	34.2	37.8	41.6
% without children	..	..	65.8	62.2	58.4
Total	..	..	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average number of children ¹	..	..	1.8	1.7	1.6
Lone-parent families³					
Average number of children					
Female head	..	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.6
Male head	..	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.5

¹ Includes only families in this category with children.² Prior to 1981, common-law families were included in the same category as married-couple families³ By definition, all lone parents have children. Average number of children by sex of lone parent was not comparable for 1971.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 93-106, 93-312, 93-720, 93-832 and 93-833.

Table 1.12

Families¹ without children, by family structure, 1981 and 1991

	1981		1991	
	Number of families	% of families without children	Number of families	% of families without children
	000s		000s	
All husband-wife families				
Empty-nesters ²	1,090.8	54.2	1,529.2	59.4
Childless	921.8	45.8	1,042.7	40.5
Total without children	2,012.6	100.0	2,571.8	100.0
Married-couple families				
Empty-nesters ²	1,036.8	58.2	1,429.2	66.5
Childless	743.8	41.8	718.8	33.4
Total without children	1,780.6	100.0	2,148.1	100.0
Common-law families				
Empty-nesters ²	54.0	23.3	99.9	23.6
Childless	178.0	76.7	323.8	76.4
Total without children	232.0	100.0	423.8	100.0

¹ Includes only married-couple and common-law families.² Includes families with children not living at home.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 93-320.



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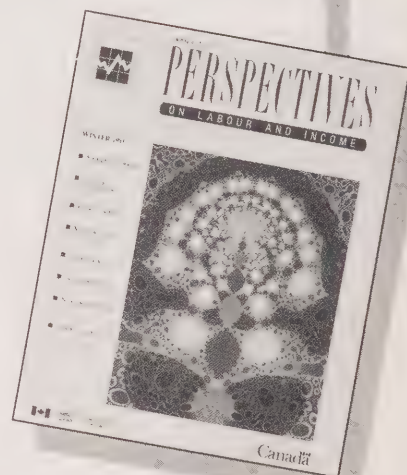
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SECTION 2: FAMILY LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

Employment of people in husband-wife families

One of the most dramatic trends in Canadian society has been the growth in the proportion of married women employed in the paid work force.³ In 1992, 56% of married women⁴ were employed, compared with 47% in 1981. (Chart 2.1)

In contrast, the proportion of married men with jobs declined in the same period. In 1992, 71% of these men were employed, about ten percentage points lower than in 1981 (80%).

There has been a particularly rapid increase in the percentage of married women with children who are employed. In 1992, 64% of these women with

children under age 16 were employed, up from 49% in 1981. (Table 2.1)

This trend occurred among married women whatever the age of their children. For instance, 57% of married women whose youngest child was less than age 3 were employed in 1992, up from 40% in 1981. During this same period, the percentage for married women with youngest child aged 3-5 rose from 46% to 62%, while the figure for those whose youngest child was aged 6-15 rose from 56% in 1981 to 69% in 1992. (Table 2.2)

³ For many women, looking after the household is their principal work activity. Currently, household work is not covered by national labour market surveys. This type of work is discussed in the time-use chapter in this report (Section 5).

⁴ Includes people living in common-law relationships.

Chart 2.1 Percentage of married women and men employed, 1981-1992



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 71-001, 71-220 and 71-529.

Married women with young children, though, are still less likely than other women with children to be employed. In 1992, 57% of married women with children less than age 3 were employed, compared with 62% of women with youngest child aged 3-5 and 69% of those with youngest child aged 6-15.

In contrast, the age of their children has almost no impact on the employment of fathers. In 1992, just over 85% of men with children were employed whether the youngest child was under age 3, aged 3-5 or aged 6-15. As well, all these figures were down from over 90% in 1981. (Table 2.3)

Employment of lone parents

Female lone parents are much less likely than married women with children to be employed. In 1992, just 49% of female lone parents with children under age 16 were employed, versus 64% of comparable married women. (Table 2.1)

As well, the percentage of female lone parents employed in 1992 (49%) was about five percentage points lower than it was in 1981 (54%). This decline can be traced largely to substantial drops in employment levels among female lone parents during the recessions in both the early 1980s and 1990s, a trend contrary to that for women in general. There were increases in the employment levels of female lone parents in some of the intervening years, however, these were not large enough to offset declines during the recessions.

Male lone parents are also less likely than married men with children to be employed. In 1992, 75% of male lone parents with children under age 16 were employed, compared with 86% of their married counterparts. As with married men, the share of male lone parents employed has declined in the last decade, falling from 83% in 1981.

Male lone parents, however, continue to be much more likely than women parenting alone to be employed. In 1992, 75% of male lone parents were employed, compared with 49% of female lone parents.

The difference in the proportion of female and male lone parents who are employed has remained fairly stable throughout the past decade. In 1981, for example, 83% of male lone parents were employed, compared with 54% of their female counterparts.

The age of children has a very significant impact on the employment of female lone parents. For instance, in 1992, only about a quarter (27%) of

female lone parents whose youngest child was less than age 3 were employed, while the figure was 44% for those whose youngest child was aged 3-5. In comparison, 61% of female lone parents whose youngest child was aged 6-15 were employed. (Table 2.2)

Fewer female lone parents with young children are currently employed compared to a decade ago, a trend in direct contrast to that for comparable married women. In 1992, 27% of female lone parents with youngest child less than age 3 were employed, down from 32% in 1981. There was a similar decline for female lone parents with youngest child aged 3-5, among whom the employment rate dropped from 51% in 1981 to 44% in 1992. In contrast, the proportion of employed female lone parents whose youngest child was aged 6-15 was about the same in 1992 as in 1981.

The age of children also affects the employment of male lone parents. In 1992, 60% of male lone parents with youngest child less than age 3 and 66% of those with youngest child aged 3-5 were employed, compared with 79% of those whose youngest child was aged 6-15. This is in contrast to married men, among whom the age of children had no effect on employment. (Table 2.3)

Part-time work

One way that women in families balance the demands of both work and home is through part-time work. In 1992, 28% of all employed women with children less than age 16 had part-time jobs.

Somewhat surprisingly, married women are more likely than female lone parents to work part-time, though, both are far more likely to be employed part-time than comparable men. In 1992, 29% of employed married women with children under age 16 versus 19% of comparable female lone parents had part-time jobs. In contrast, only 3% of employed male lone parents and just 2% of comparable married men with children had part-time jobs. (Table 2.5)

The percentage of married women with children working part-time, though, decreased between 1981 and 1992, whereas part-time employment of female lone parents increased in the same period. In 1992, 29% of employed married women with children less than age 16 worked part-time, down from 32% in 1981. In contrast, the proportion of employed female lone parents with part-time jobs rose from 14% in 1981 to 19% in 1992. (Chart 2.2)

Part-time employment of mothers is highest for those with young children. Roughly a third of employed married women whose youngest child was either less than age 3 (32%) or aged 3-5 (33%) worked part-time during 1992. This compared with just a quarter (26%) of those whose youngest child was aged 6-15. (Table 2.4)

An even greater difference in the incidence of part-time employment among female lone parents was evident, depending on the age of their children. In 1992, 27% of these women with children under age 3 and 22% of those whose youngest child was aged 3-5 worked part-time, compared with only 17% of those with youngest child aged 6-15.

Part-time work and family responsibility

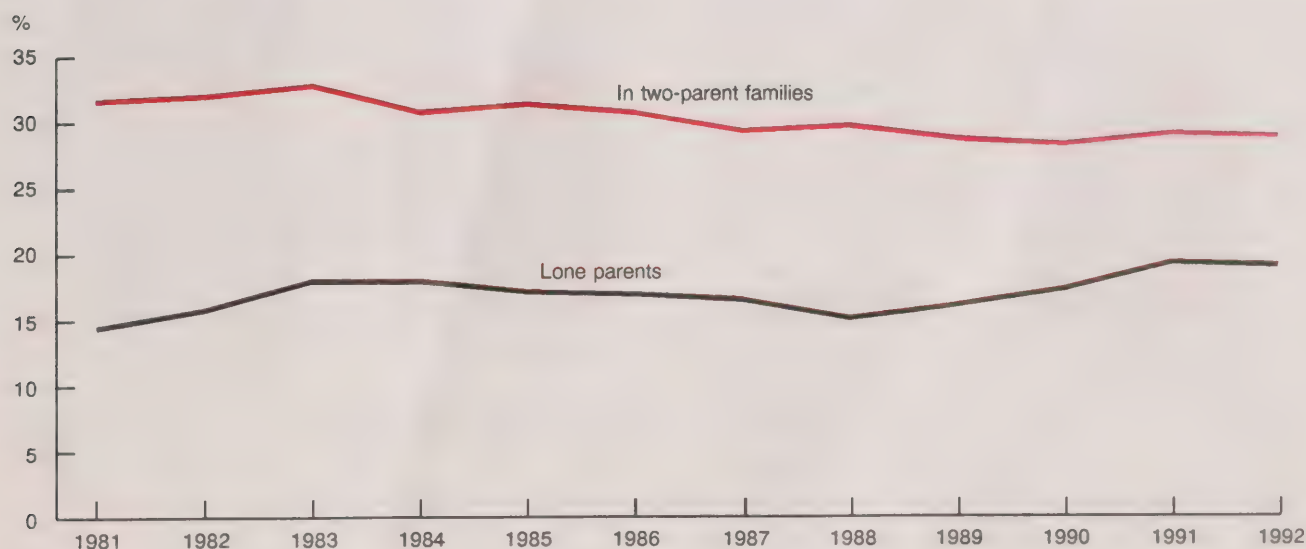
Not surprisingly, personal and/or family responsibilities are major reasons why women in families work part-time. Of mothers employed part-time in 1991, 29% of married women and 20% of female lone parents cited personal and/or family responsibilities as their reason for working part-time. Only 4% of married men and 9% of male lone parents reported they worked part-time because of these reasons. (Table 2.5)

Women in families are especially likely to work part-time for personal and/or family reasons when they have pre-school-aged children. In 1991, 38% of married women and 27% of female lone parents with youngest child less than age 6 worked part-time because of personal and/or family responsibilities. In contrast, the figures were only 20% of married women and 15% of female lone parents with youngest child aged 6-15. (Table 2.6)

At the same time, a significant share of mothers work part-time because they can not find full-time employment. Indeed, half (50%) of all female lone parents with children less than age 16 who worked part-time in 1991 did so because they could only find part-time work. This was also the case for a quarter (25%) of comparable women in two-parent families. (Table 2.5)

On the other hand, close to half (44%) of mothers in two-parent families with children less than age 16 and 22% of similar female lone parents worked part-time because they did not want full-time employment.

Chart 2.2 Percentage of women with children less than age 16 employed part-time, by family status, 1981-1992



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 71-001, 71-220 and 71-529.

Work schedules

Many parents, again in the vast majority of cases women, work non-standard schedules. In 1988, 45% of parents with primary child care responsibility in two-parent families and 40% of lone parents worked non-standard work weeks. More specifically, almost a third of both lone parents (29%) and married persons (28%) with primary responsibility for child care worked at least one day on the weekend, while similar percentages of both worked an irregular shift during the reference week. (Chart 2.3)

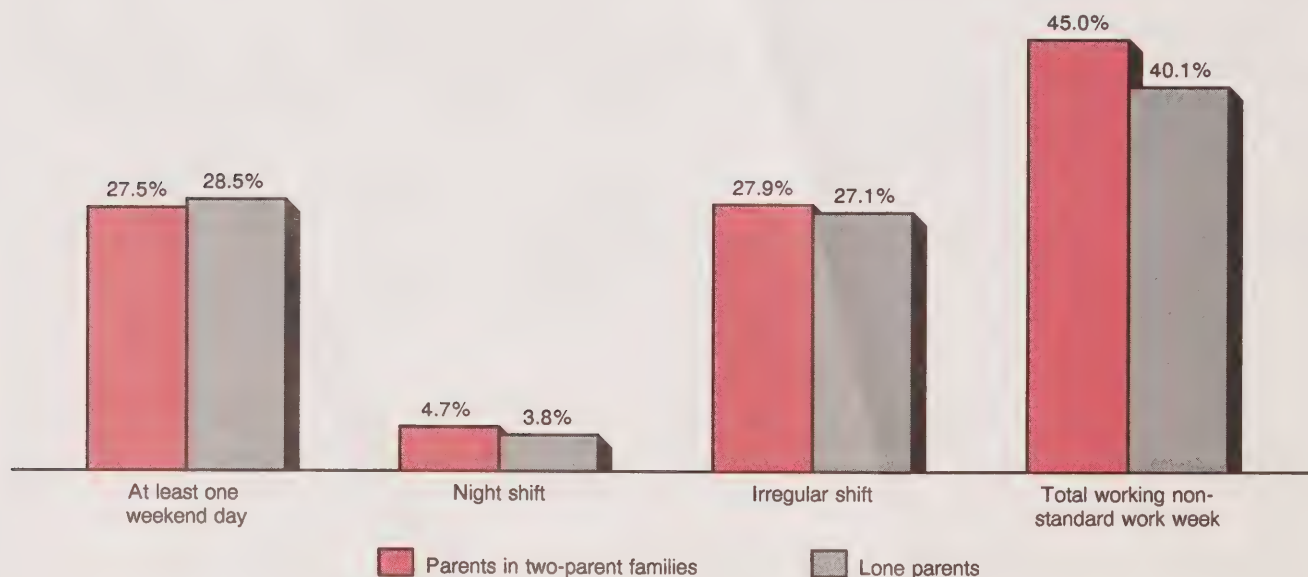
As well, the greater the child rearing demands, the more likely mothers are to arrange their work schedules in order to accommodate these child care needs. For instance, women with three or more children under age 13, those with two or more pre-school-aged children, and those with infants at home were more likely to have worked a fixed late day or night shift than women in families with fewer or older children.

Absences from work

The presence of young children also has a strong influence on the work absences of their mothers. In 1991, a weekly average of 11% of women in two-parent families with at least one child under age 6 and 6% of comparable female lone parents missed time from work because of personal and/or family responsibilities. This compared with 2% for both married women and female lone parents whose youngest child was aged 6-15. (Chart 2.4)

All these figures were several times higher than those for comparable fathers. Furthermore, the presence of children had little effect on work absences of men. For example, in 1991, only 2% of married men with pre-school-aged children and just 1% of those whose youngest child was aged 6-15 lost some or all time from work each week because of personal and/or family demands.

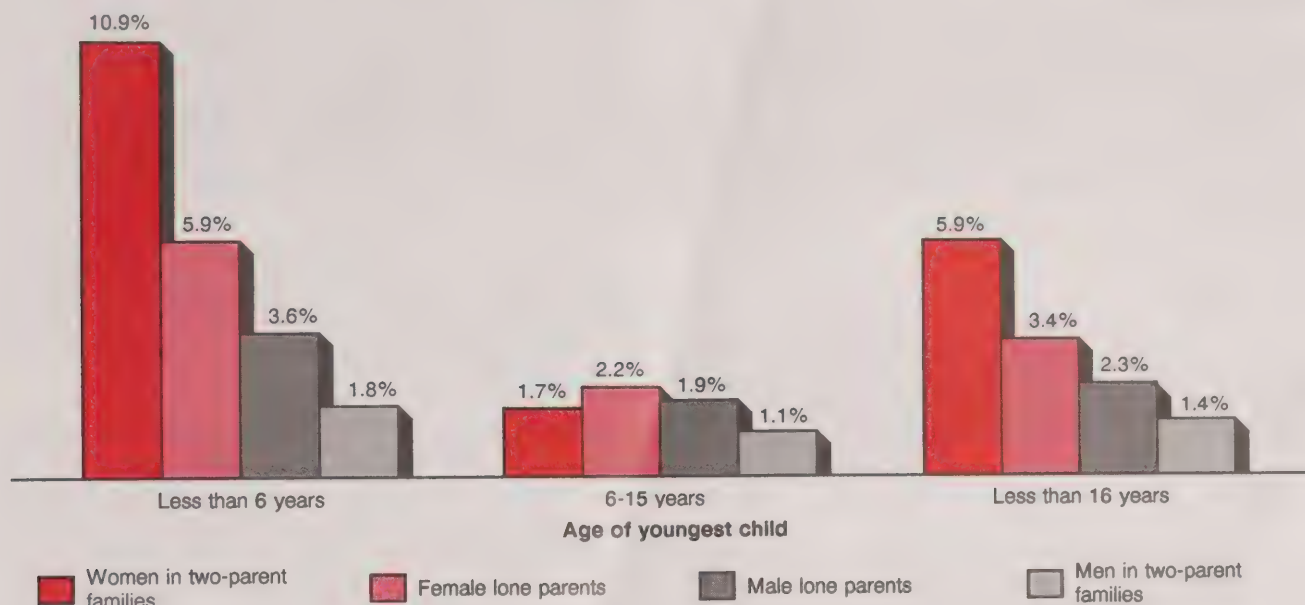
Chart 2.3 Percentage of interviewed parents¹ working non-standard work schedules, 1988



¹ Includes the parent who identified himself/herself as most responsible for arranging child care. In 95% of cases, the interviewed parent was the mother of a child.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian National Child Care Study.

Chart 2.4 Percentage of parents¹ losing time from work because of personal/family responsibility, by age of youngest child, 1991



¹ Includes those with children less than age 16 living at home.

Source: Statistics Canada, The Labour Force Survey.

Maternity benefits

An important issue facing many families in Canada is the availability of paid maternity leave. During 1991, there were approximately 164,000 maternity absences from work in Canada, almost double the number in 1980 (87,000). Overall, there were 3.9 maternity absences for every 100 employed women aged 15-44 in 1991, up from 2.7 in 1980. (Table 2.9)

The large majority of maternity absences are paid. In 1991, 89% of women on maternity leave received some form of monetary compensation. This was up considerably from 1980 when only about three

quarters (77%) of maternity absences were compensated. The 1991 figure, however, was down slightly from 1986 and 1987 when the incidence of paid maternity absences had risen to 92%.

Unemployment insurance benefits are the most common form of maternity leave compensation. In fact, in the majority of cases, it is the only type of payment received. In 1991, 77% of women on compensated maternity leave received only unemployment insurance benefits. Another 17% received unemployment insurance accompanied by other forms of compensation, such as group insurance benefits, while the remaining 6% received only

Families experiencing unemployment

Unemployment rates among family members are currently relatively high, reflecting the generally high unemployment rates in the overall population. In 1992, 9.2% of persons considered family heads, 9.1% of spouses and 18.1% of other family members were unemployed. Indeed, the proportion of family heads classified as unemployed in 1992 was greater than at any time since the mid-1970s when just 4% of family heads were unemployed. (Table 2.7)

Unemployment rates, though, are considerably higher among lone parents than spouses in husband-wife families. In 1992, 19.1% of female lone parents and 13.9% of their male counterparts were unemployed. In contrast, unemployment rates among spouses in two-parent families with children were 9.8% for women and 8.3% for men. (Table 2.8)

benefits other than unemployment insurance. (Table 2.10)

There have, however, been shifts in the distribution of women receiving benefits from these various sources. For instance, the share of women receiving unemployment insurance in combination with other sources has more than doubled since 1980, while fewer women are relying solely on either unemployment insurance or alternate forms of compensation.

Child care

According to the Canadian National Child Care Study, 1.1 million pre-school-aged children and 1.6 million school-aged children received some form of child care in the fall of 1988 in order to accommodate the work or study schedules of their parent(s).

Organized or regulated care services, such as day care centres, nursery schools, before or after school care, and licensed family day care provide only a small portion of the main child care requirements of Canadian children. In 1988, organized/regulated child care facilities functioned as the main method of care for only 11% of all children under age 13 whose parents worked or studied. (Table 2.11)

Not surprisingly, organized care is used most frequently by families with pre-school-aged children. In 1988, nearly one quarter (24%) of children aged 3-5 and 12% of those less than age 3 were cared for by these services. In contrast, the figure was 5% for children aged 6-12.

Unrelated care-givers, such as friends, neighbours, or private baby-sitters, are also an important source of child care. In 1988, 23% of children under age 13 were cared for in such an arrangement.

Unrelated care-givers are an especially important source of child care for those with pre-school-aged children. This type of informal arrangement was the main source of care for 37% of children under age 3 and 31% of those aged 3-5. In contrast, it was the main type of care for 16% of children aged 6-12.

Relatives also play an important child care role for families with very young children. Reliance on a relative was the main child care arrangement for 24% of children under age 3 and 16% of those aged 3-5. In comparison, it was the main source of care for 11% of children aged 6-12.

A large percentage of school-aged children in need of care (usually before or after school) are either responsible for their own care, are looked after by a sibling or have no formal arrangement made for their care. Indeed, in 1988, 39% of all children aged 6-12 requiring care in order to accommodate parental work or study schedules fell into one of these categories: 23% were either looked after by a sibling or looked after themselves, while there were no formal child care arrangements outside of school for the remaining 16%.

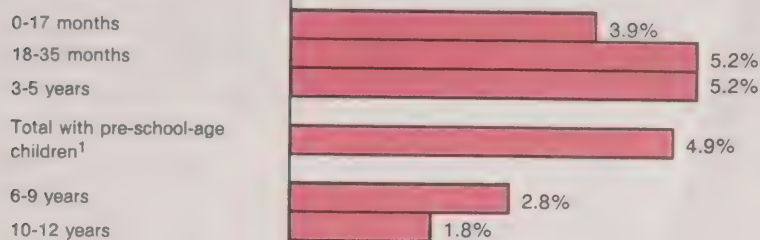
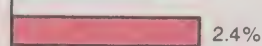
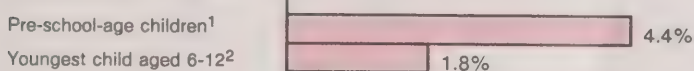
Canadian families spent over \$2 billion on child care arrangements in 1987. Over three quarters (76%) of this total expenditure, almost \$1.6 billion, was used to support the child care needs of families with pre-school-aged children.⁵

In fact, families with pre-school-aged children spend twice as much on child care, as a percentage of family income, as families whose youngest child is aged 6-12. In 1987, families with children under age 6 allocated 4.9% of their total annual income to child care expenditures, versus 2.4% for those with school-aged children. (Chart 2.5) However, this difference is not surprising since most children over age 5 spend much of the day in school.

Whatever the age of their children, lone-parent families, the large majority of which are headed by women, spend nearly three times as much of their annual income on child care as dual-parent families. These expenses accounted for 11.8% of the income of lone-parent families with pre-school-aged children in 1987, whereas the figure for comparable two-parent families was just 4.4%. Similarly, for families in which the youngest child was aged 6-12, child care costs represented 6.0% of lone-parent family income, versus 1.8% for comparable two-parent families.

This disparity is accounted for, in large part, by the very low incomes of lone-parent families. In fact, the median amount spent on child care by lone-parent families with pre-school-aged children in 1987 was \$1,680, less than the \$2,000 spent annually by comparable dual-parent families. For families whose youngest child was aged 6-12, the median annual child care expenditures for lone-parent families was \$1,060, just slightly higher than that of comparable two-parent families (\$940).⁵

⁵ Source: Lero, D.S., H. Goelman, A.R. Pence and L.M. Brockman, *Canadian National Child Care Study*, unpublished data.

Chart 2.5 Median percentage of family income spent on child care, 1987**All families by age of youngest child:****Total with children aged 6-12²****Lone-parent families with:****Two-parent families with:**¹ At least one child under age 6.² All children aged 6-12.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian National Child Care Study.

**Table 2.1
Percentage of parents employed,¹ 1981-1992**

	Spouses in two-parent families		Lone parents	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
1981	48.9	92.2	54.2	82.7
1982	48.5	88.3	50.8	78.0
1983	49.9	87.6	48.7	76.5
1984	52.1	88.3	50.7	73.2
1985	54.3	89.2	51.7	77.3
1986	57.4	90.0	51.8	77.8
1987	59.3	90.1	53.0	82.4
1988	61.6	91.2	54.1	78.1
1989	63.5	91.0	55.1	76.1
1990	64.3	90.1	55.1	75.0
1991	64.6	87.5	52.2	71.3
1992	64.1	86.2	49.3	75.3

¹ Includes those with children less than age 16 living at home.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 71-001, 71-220 and 71-529.

Table 2.2

Employment of women with children less than age 16, by family status and age of youngest child, 1981-1992

	Women in two-parent families			Female lone parents		
	Youngest child less than age 3	Youngest child aged 3-5	Youngest child aged 6-15	Youngest child less than age 3	Youngest child aged 3-5	Youngest child aged 6-15
	%					
1981	39.6	46.2	55.8	31.6	51.4	61.6
1982	39.7	46.1	55.1	31.0	48.2	57.3
1983	42.6	48.3	55.1	30.1	44.3	55.4
1984	45.2	49.8	57.4	30.0	44.9	58.3
1985	47.6	52.8	59.1	34.1	47.3	58.3
1986	50.9	55.6	62.2	29.2	47.7	60.1
1987	52.1	57.2	64.6	33.3	50.4	60.5
1988	53.6	59.6	67.3	32.3	50.4	63.0
1989	55.0	61.0	69.7	30.0	50.6	65.4
1990	55.5	61.2	71.7	30.9	49.6	65.5
1991	57.0	62.5	70.3	30.8	47.4	62.2
1992	57.1	62.4	69.3	26.7	43.6	61.2

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 71-001, 71-220 and 71-529.

Table 2.3

Employment of men with children less than age 16, by family status and age of youngest child, 1981-1992

	Men in two-parent families			Male lone parents		
	Youngest child less than age 3	Youngest child aged 3-5	Youngest child aged 6-15	Youngest child less than age 3	Youngest child aged 3-5	Youngest child aged 6-15
	%					
1981	92.5	92.6	91.9	88.4	79.0	82.7
1982	88.2	88.8	88.2	78.1	78.8	77.9
1983	86.6	87.7	88.2	50.5	75.8	79.6
1984	87.9	88.7	88.3	63.1	76.2	74.0
1985	89.0	89.4	89.1	74.3	69.9	78.9
1986	89.7	90.1	90.0	67.7	73.6	79.4
1987	89.7	90.2	90.3	68.8	84.5	82.9
1988	91.1	91.4	91.2	69.4	74.6	79.5
1989	91.1	91.4	90.7	74.1	67.9	77.8
1990	89.9	89.9	90.2	71.4	66.4	77.0
1991	86.7	87.1	88.2	65.4	62.2	73.8
1992	85.7	85.9	86.6	60.2	65.9	78.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 71-001, 71-220 and 71-529; and Labour Force Survey.

Table 2.4

Percentage of women with children less than age 16 employed part-time, by family status and age of youngest child, 1981-1992

	Women in two-parent families			Female lone parents		
	Youngest child less than age 3	Youngest child aged 3-5	Youngest child aged 6-15	Youngest child less than age 3	Youngest child aged 3-5	Youngest child aged 6-15
	%					
1981	33.9	34.3	29.6	20.6	14.8	13.1
1982	33.4	34.2	30.6	22.6	18.1	14.0
1983	34.3	34.7	31.3	20.4	21.3	16.8
1984	31.4	33.3	29.5	27.1	19.8	16.3
1985	32.3	33.4	30.2	22.8	19.2	15.6
1986	33.8	32.1	28.7	25.7	15.9	15.9
1987	33.0	31.1	26.8	22.4	18.3	14.8
1988	33.2	31.8	27.4	22.6	17.9	12.8
1989	32.8	30.4	26.1	22.2	18.8	14.4
1990	32.8	30.8	25.5	23.7	21.3	15.1
1991	32.4	31.8	26.4	27.6	24.1	16.6
1992	32.1	32.9	25.9	27.3	21.5	17.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 71-001, 71-220 and 71-529.

Table 2.5

Parents employed part-time,¹ by reason, 1991

	Spouses in two-parent families		Lone parents	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Personal/family responsibilities	29.1	4.2	20.0	8.7
Own illness/disability	0.6	4.7	1.3	1.7
Going to school	1.0	8.8	6.1	1.7
Didn't want full-time job	44.2	11.2	22.4	21.2
Could only find part-time work	24.7	68.0	49.6	65.9
Other reasons	0.4	3.1	0.6	0.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total employed part-time	510,227	40,201	45,008	1,616
% employed part-time	29.1	1.7	19.4	3.4

¹ Includes those with children aged less than age 16 living at home.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 2.6

Reason women with children less than age 16 work part-time, by family status and age of youngest child, 1991

	Women in two-parent families		Female lone parents	
	Youngest child less than age 6	Youngest child aged 6-15	Youngest child less than age 6	Youngest child aged 6-15
	%			
Personal/family responsibilities	37.5	20.4	27.4	14.7
Own illness/disability	0.4	0.8	0.6	1.9
Going to school	0.9	1.1	9.4	3.8
Did not want full-time work	42.1	46.4	21.1	23.3
Could only find part-time work	18.8	30.7	40.9	55.9
Other reasons	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total employed part-time	256,998	253,229	18,852	26,156
% employed part-time	32.2	26.4	25.5	16.6

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 2.7

Unemployment rates, by family status, 1975-1992

	Family head	Spouse	Other family members	All family members	All Canadians
	%				
1975	4.1	7.9	12.5	6.9	6.9
1976	4.0	8.0	13.5	7.1	7.1
1977	4.3	8.9	15.3	8.1	8.1
1978	5.0	9.0	15.3	8.3	8.3
1979	4.4	7.9	14.0	7.5	7.4
1980	4.7	7.4	14.1	7.5	7.5
1981	4.7	7.6	14.2	11.1	7.5
1982	7.9	9.7	19.9	11.9	11.0
1983	8.7	10.4	20.8	11.2	11.9
1984	8.3	10.4	18.6	10.4	11.2
1985	7.6	9.7	17.1	9.4	10.5
1986	7.0	8.9	15.4	8.7	9.5
1987	6.6	8.5	13.7	7.7	8.8
1988	5.7	7.7	11.9	7.4	7.8
1989	5.6	7.2	11.7	8.0	7.5
1990	6.2	7.4	12.8	10.1	8.1
1991	8.2	8.8	16.4	10.1	10.3
1992	9.2	9.1	18.1	10.9	11.3

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 71-001, 71-220 and 71-529.

Table 2.8

Unemployment rates of parents,¹ by family status, 1981-1992

	Lone parents		Spouses in two-parent families with children	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
1981	11.9	7.5	8.8	4.2
1982	16.6	12.9	10.9	7.6
1983	18.8	12.2	11.7	8.2
1984	18.1	15.5	11.8	7.6
1985	18.4	11.7	11.1	6.9
1986	18.4	11.2	9.9	6.2
1987	17.2	8.8	9.6	5.9
1988	14.7	10.8	8.9	4.7
1989	14.3	11.5	8.3	4.8
1990	15.2	12.6	8.4	5.5
1991	16.8	15.7	9.6	7.7
1992	19.1	13.9	9.8	8.3

¹ Includes those with children less than age 16 living at home.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 71-001, 71-220 and 71-529; and Labour Force Survey.

Table 2.9

Maternity leave, 1980-1991

	Total maternity absences	Maternity absences as % of employed women aged 15-44	% of maternity absences compensated
1980	86,991	2.7	76.6
1981	110,108	3.2	80.7
1982	112,501	3.4	84.8
1983	116,319	3.4	87.1
1984	118,204	3.3	88.5
1985	141,901	3.9	90.7
1986	137,196	3.6	92.0
1987	152,650	3.9	92.2
1988	116,715	2.9	85.7
1989	163,841	3.9	90.2
1990	162,896	3.8	86.6
1991	163,759	3.9	89.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Absence from Work Survey.

Table 2.10

Percentage of maternity absences compensated, by type of compensation, 1980-1991

	Unemployment insurance only	Unemployment insurance plus other	Total including unemployment insurance	Other	Total
	%				
1980	81.3	6.7	88.0	12.0	100.0
1981	82.3	7.9	90.1	9.9	100.0
1982	76.2	11.3	87.5	12.4	100.0
1983	77.2	11.9	89.1	10.9	100.0
1984	80.4	13.6	94.0	6.0	100.0
1985	76.1	14.3	90.4	9.6	100.0
1986	78.4	12.6	91.0	8.9	100.0
1987	78.5	13.2	91.7	8.3	100.0
1988	76.7	14.2	91.0	9.0	100.0
1989	78.2	15.4	93.6	6.4	100.0
1990	78.6	15.0	93.7	6.3	100.0
1991	76.9	17.0	93.9	6.1	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Absence from Work Survey.

Table 2.11

Main method of child care used other than school, by age of youngest child, 1988

	Youngest child less less than age 3	Youngest child aged 3-5	Total with youngest child less than age 6	Youngest child aged 6-12	Total
	%				
Parents					
-while working	10.1	10.2	10.1	7.6	8.6
-by spouse/partner	16.5	16.5	16.5	21.8	19.6
Total	26.6	26.7	26.6	29.4	28.3
Relatives	23.9	16.1	19.7	10.7	14.4
Unrelated care-givers	37.0	30.7	33.6	15.8	23.1
Regulated/organized care	12.3	24.2	18.7	5.1	10.6
Self or sibling	--	--	--	23.4	14.1
No arrangement	--	--	--	15.6	9.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total children (000s)	496	577	1,073	1,561	2,633

Source: Lero, D.S., H. Goelman, A.R. Pence and L.M. Brockman, Canadian National Child Care Study, unpublished data.

SECTION 3: INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

Family Income

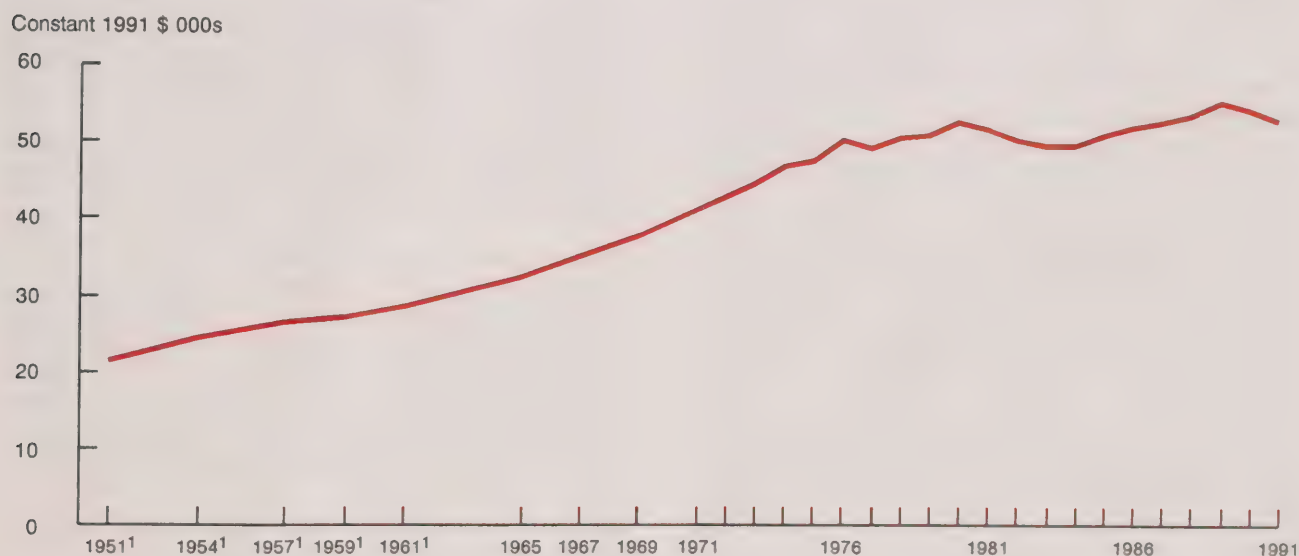
There has been very little overall change in the real income of Canadian families since the early 1980s. In 1991, the average family income was estimated at \$53,100. This, however, was only about 3% greater than the figure in 1981 (\$51,800) once the effects of inflation, as reflected in changes in the Consumer Price Index, were taken into account. In contrast, the average income of Canadian families rose 26% between 1971 and 1981 and 46% in the 1961-1971 period. (Chart 3.1)

That there was little growth in family income in the last decade can be traced to the fact that average incomes fell dramatically during the recessionary periods in both the early 1980s and 1990s. Average

family income declined 6%, or almost \$3,000 per family, between 1980 and 1983, and 4%, or over \$2,000 per family, between 1989 and 1991. There was considerable growth in average family income in the years between the recessions, however, these gains did little more than offset the recessionary declines.

There is wide divergence in family incomes across the country. Ontario had the highest average family income in 1991 at \$58,600 per family. Indeed, Ontario, along with Alberta at \$55,600 and British Columbia at \$54,900 were the only provinces with incomes above the national average (\$53,100). In the remaining provinces, average family incomes ranged from \$48,600 in Quebec to just \$41,700 in Newfoundland. (Chart 3.2)

Chart 3.1 Average family income, 1951-1991



¹ Does not include self-employment farm income.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-207.

Chart 3.2 Average family income, by province, 1991

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-207.

Distribution of family income

Data on average income, though, mask considerable variation in the proportion of families in different income groups. In 1991, 20% of all family units had incomes over \$75,000, while at the other end of the income spectrum, 24% of families had incomes between \$10,000-\$29,999 and 2% had incomes below \$10,000. At the same time, 28% of families had incomes between \$30,000 and \$49,999 and 26% were in the \$50,000-\$74,999 range. (Chart 3.3)

The proportion of all families in the middle-income groups, however, declined in the last decade, while the shares in both the upper and lower ranges increased. For example, in 1991, a total of 54% of all families had incomes between \$30,000 and \$74,999, down from 57% in 1981, once the effects of inflation were taken into account. During the same period, the percentage of families with incomes over \$75,000 rose from 18% to 20%, while the share with incomes below \$30,000 increased from 25% to 27%.

Low-income families

Nearly one million (949,000) Canadian families in 1991, 13% of all families, had incomes below Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs.⁶ The percentage of families currently classified as having

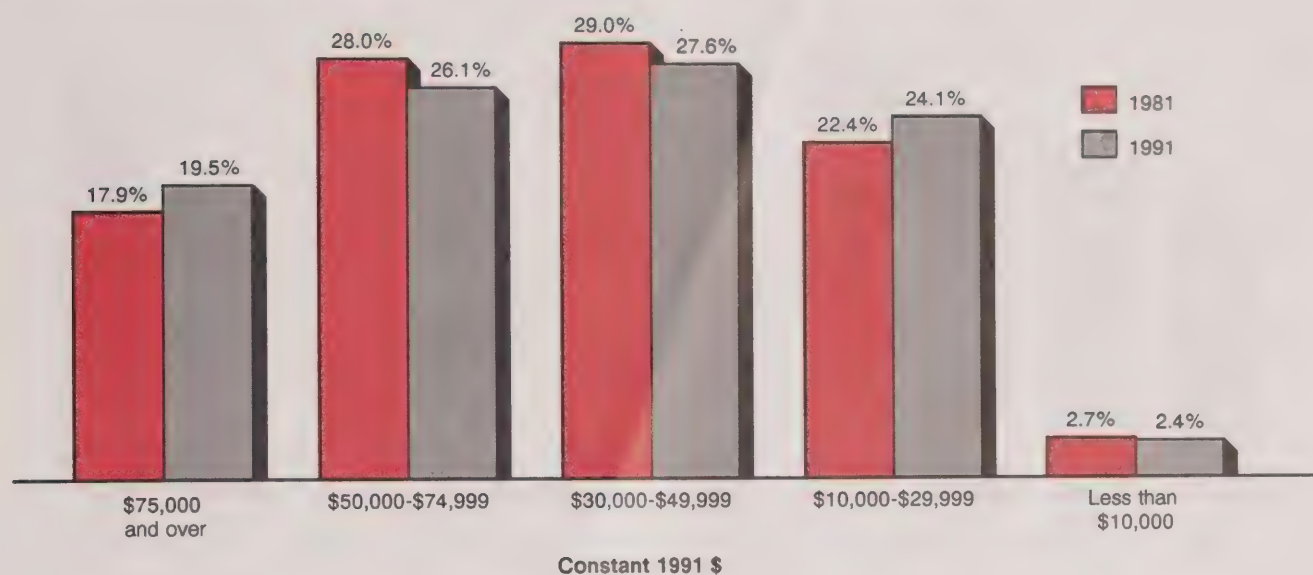
low incomes is roughly the same as it was at the beginning of the 1980s. (Chart 3.4)

There was, however, considerable fluctuation in the share of Canadian families with low incomes over the past decade, with the ups and downs mirroring changes in general economic conditions. The incidence of low income among families, for example, rose from 13% in 1981 to almost 16% in 1984 following the end of the recession in the early 1980s. By 1989, the figure had fallen to 11%, only to rise again to 13% during the most recent recession.

There is considerable variance in the incidence of low income among families in different parts of Canada. Manitoba, where 17% of families were classified as having low incomes in 1991, as well as Newfoundland and Quebec, both at 16%, had the greatest incidence of families with low incomes. Comparatively, around 13% of families in Saskatchewan, Alberta and Nova Scotia, 12% of those in New Brunswick, and 11% in Ontario and British Columbia had low incomes. Prince Edward Island, at 10%, had the fewest low-income families. (Chart 3.5)

⁶ Includes families that usually spend 56.2% or more of their income on food, shelter and clothing. These limits also vary by size of family and size of area of residence. They are not, however, intended as measures of "poverty".

Chart 3.3 Distribution of families, by income group, 1981 and 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-207.

Income by family structure

There are also wide differences in the average income of different types of families. For example, non-elderly⁷ two-parent families with children⁸ had an average income of \$59,000 in 1991, while the figure for childless couples headed by someone under age 65 was almost \$53,000. At the same time, other non-elderly couples with other relatives and/or children aged 18 or over averaged over \$73,000 per family. (Table 3.1)

In contrast, lone-parent families headed by women under age 65 had an average income of only \$22,200 in 1991; this was just 38% the average income of non-elderly two-parent families with children. The average income of lone-parent families headed by men, at \$36,700, was also relatively low compared to other non-elderly families.

Families headed by someone aged 65 and over also have relatively low incomes. In 1991, these families had an average income of just over \$40,000. What distinguishes elderly families from lone-parent families, though, is the fact that the average income

of families headed by people over age 65 rose over the course of the 1980s, whereas it fell among lone-parent families.

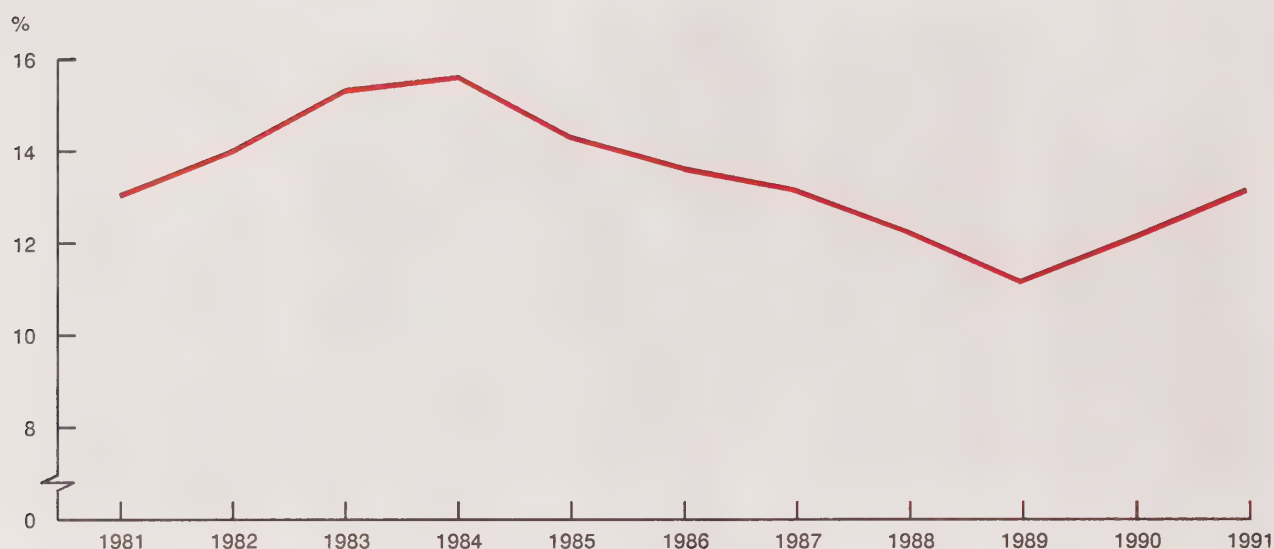
Low income and family structure

Not surprisingly, lone-parent families, especially those headed by women, are characterized by high rates of low income. In 1991, over three out of five (62%) lone-parent families headed by women under age 65 had incomes below the Low Income Cut-offs. Indeed, these families, which represented only 6% of all family units, made up 29% of all low-income families. At the same time, 24% of male-headed lone-parent families were classified as having low income. (Table 3.2)

In comparison, only around 11% of non-elderly two-parent families with children, 9% of married couples without children, and just 4% of other non-elderly married-couple families had incomes below the Low Income Cut-offs.

⁷ Refers to families in which the head is less than age 65.

⁸ Refers to families with children less than age 18 living at home.

Chart 3.4 Percentage of families with low income, 1981-1991

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-207.

Two-parent families with children, however, account for the single largest share of all low-income families. In 1991, these families, which represented 41% of all families, made up 33% of all low-income families.

At the same time, 9% of families headed by someone aged 65 or over were classified as having low incomes in 1991. This is a major improvement from 1981, when 22% of these families had incomes below the Low Income Cut-offs. In contrast, there was little change in the low-income situation of the various non-elderly families in the same period.

Children In low-income families

Overall, in 1991, 1.2 million children under the age of 18, 18% of the total, lived in a family with income below the Low Income Cut-offs. Indeed, children are in danger of becoming the poorest age group in Canada. The percentage of children living in low-income families in 1991 (18%) was well above that for the population aged 18-64 (14%). At the same time, while the share of low-income children is still below the figure for the population aged 65 and over (20%), the incidence of low income among the elderly declined dramatically during the 1980s, whereas there was little change in the percentage of children living in low-income families. (Chart 3.6) If

these trends continue, children may soon have a higher rate of low income than their elderly counterparts.

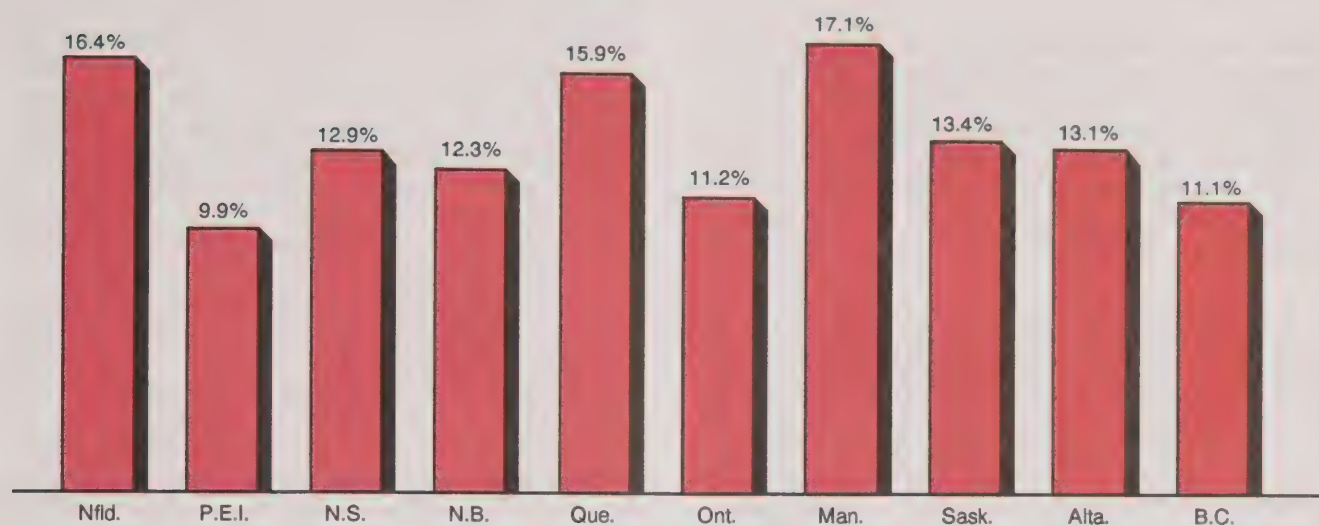
Number of earners

Not surprisingly, the income profile of a household is very much determined by the number of earners. In 1991, for example, families with three or more earners had an average income of \$77,000, compared with \$58,800 for those with two earners, \$40,000 for families with one earner, and just \$26,600 for families with no income earner. (Table 3.3)

There has been a significant increase in the proportion of families with more than one earner in the last decade and a half. In 1991, 63% of all families had more than one earner, up from 54% in 1975. During the same period, the share of all families with only one earner fell from 36% to 22%. (Table 3.4)

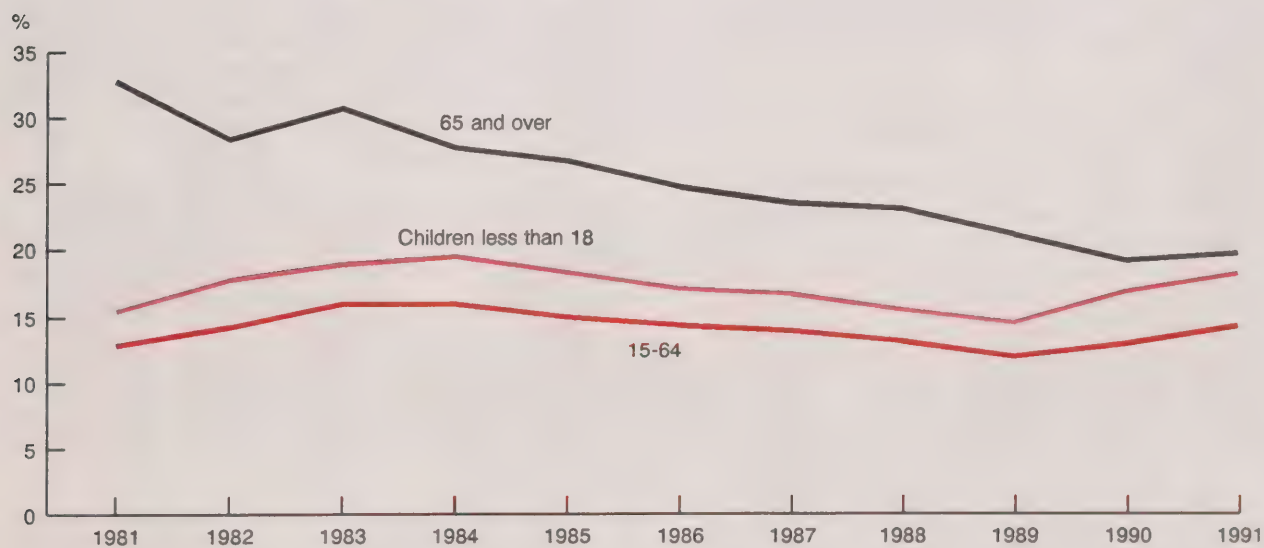
The increase in the incidence of multiple-earner families is, in large part, a reflection of the fact that a growing proportion of women in husband-wife families are working outside the home, as discussed in the chapter on family labour force characteristics.

Chart 3.5 Percentage of families with low income, by province, 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-207.

Chart 3.6 Population with low income, by age group, 1981-1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-207.

As a result, women are making an increasingly important contribution to family income. The income of wives represented 26% of all family income in 1991, up from 20% in 1981.

There has, however, also been an increase in the proportion of families with no earner. In 1991, 15% of all families had no income earner, up from 10% in 1975. (Table 3.4) This increase is largely a result of the growth in the number of female-headed lone-parent families and families headed by someone aged 65 and over, both of which have a high percentage of non-earners.

The presence/number of earners in a household is particularly critical to lone-parent families headed by women. For instance, non-elderly female lone-parent families with no earner, representing about a quarter of all non-elderly female-headed lone-parent families in 1991, had an average income of just \$13,500. As a result, almost all of these families (95%) were classified as having low incomes. Female-headed lone-parent families with one earner did somewhat better; still, in 1991, almost half (48%) of these families had incomes below the Low Income Cut-offs. (Table 3.3)

The incidence of low income is also relatively high among husband-wife families with just one earner. Nearly a quarter (24%) of non-elderly two-parent families with children with only one earner were classified as having low incomes in 1991. In contrast, only 6% of these families with two earners and just 3% of those with three or more earners had low incomes.

Composition of family income

Most family income is derived from earned sources. In 1991, 73% of all family income was generated through wages and salaries, while another 6% was net income from self-employment. At the same time, 12% of family income came from transfer payments, 5% came from investments, and 4% came from other sources, such as pensions, scholarships, and alimony and child support. (Table 3.5)

However, the share of family income coming from wages and salaries has declined in recent years, falling from 77% in 1981 to 73% in 1991. In contrast, there has been an increase in the proportion of income coming from transfer payments. In 1991, transfers made up 12% of all family income,

up from 10% in the late 1980s and double the figure reported in 1971 (6%).

Transfer payments make up particularly large shares of the incomes of both elderly families and families headed by female lone parents. In 1991, transfer payments made up 40% of the income of families headed by someone aged 65 or older and 33% of that of female-headed lone-parent families. Comparatively, transfer payments made up only 12% of the income of male-headed lone-parent families, 8% of that of non-elderly two-parent families with children, and just 6% of that of childless non-elderly couples.⁹

Elderly families and female-headed lone-parent families are also more dependent than other families on income from other sources, such as pensions, scholarships, and alimony and child support. In 1991, 18% of the income of elderly families, an average of over \$7,000 per family, came from these other sources. At the same time, 7% of the income of lone-parent families headed by women, about \$1,500 per family, was from these sources. In comparison, other money income represented only about 5% of the income of childless non-elderly couples, 3% of that of male-headed lone-parent families, and just 1% of that of two-parent families with children.

Spousal support

The issue of spousal and child support, or the lack thereof, is one of the major public policy concerns related to lone-parent families headed by women. Figures from the 1990 General Social Survey, indicated, for example, that just 19% of these families received financial support from anyone outside their household.

In another study based on 1990 tax data,¹⁰ around a third of female lone parents with children under age 18 reported on their income tax returns that they had received either spousal or child support payments.

These payments, though, make up an important component of the income of those families receiving them. In 1990, recipient families received an average of \$4,800 in alimony representing 18% of their income.

⁹ Source: Statistics Canada, *Survey of Consumer Finances*.

¹⁰ Source: "Alimony and Child Support", by Diane Galarneau in *Canadian Social Trends*, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 11-008E, No. 28, Spring 1993.

Family expenditures

Aside from taxes, shelter costs currently absorb the largest share of family spending. In 1990, families living in 17 metropolitan areas devoted an average of 16% of all their expenditures to shelter, while 7% went into household furnishings and operation. At the same time, 13% of total family spending went to food, 12% went to transportation, and 6% was devoted to both recreation, reading and education and clothing. (Chart 3.7)

The largest single category of expenditure for Canadian families, though, is personal taxes. These taxes consumed an average of \$12,500 per family, 23% of total spending during 1990.

Spending by family structure

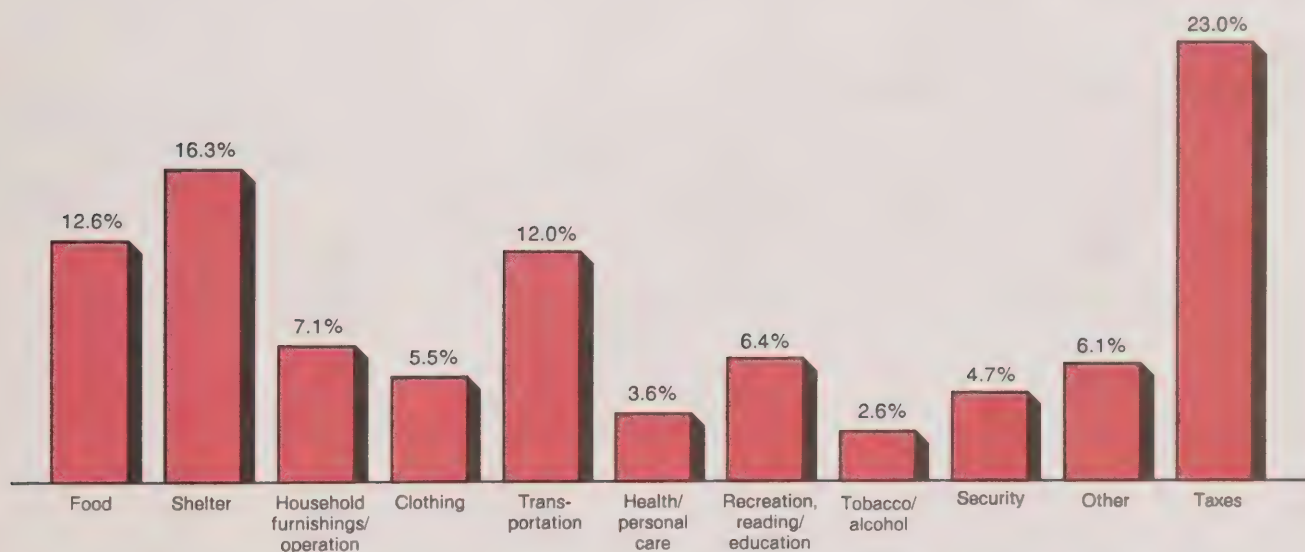
There is considerable variation in the distribution of spending in different types of family. Lone-parent families, for example, devote a particularly large share of their expenditures to basic items. In 1990, shelter costs consumed 19% of all expenditures by

lone-parent families, compared with 16% for married-couple families with or without children. Lone-parent families also devoted 16% of their expenditures to food, compared with 13% for married-couple families with children. (Table 3.6)

In terms of actual dollars, however, lone-parent families spend less on these items than comparable two-parent families with children. For example, lone-parent families spent \$6,300 per family on shelter in 1990 versus almost \$10,000 per two-parent family with children. This gap closes to just a few hundred dollars, though, when calculated on a per capita basis.

In contrast, lone-parent families pay much less in income tax than married-couple families. In 1990, lone-parent families paid an average of \$4,800, or 15% of their total expenditures, in personal taxes. In contrast, married-couple families with children paid an average of \$14,800, or 24% of their total expenditures in taxes, while married-couples without children paid an average of \$11,500, 23% of their total expenditures, in taxes.

Chart 3.7 Distribution of family expenditures, 1990



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 62-555.

Table 3.1

Average family income, by family structure, 1981-1991

	Non-elderly families ¹					Elderly families ⁴	
	Two-parent families with children ²	Married couples without children	Other couples ³	Lone-parent families ²			Other
				Female head	Male head		
Constant 1991 \$							
1981	56,005	51,380	74,095	23,686	42,923	43,078	35,076
1982	54,666	49,441	72,118	21,682	38,496	42,794	36,846
1983	54,424	50,053	68,819	21,435	35,641	39,049	34,391
1984	54,642	49,333	66,702	22,491	38,153	41,126	36,726
1985	56,244	50,536	69,865	22,174	36,405	40,653	37,180
1986	57,469	50,538	73,780	22,271	37,707	43,971	37,315
1987	58,824	52,443	72,309	22,907	47,024	42,713	36,103
1988	59,724	54,208	73,983	22,938	40,248	43,920	37,042
1989	61,644	53,274	76,031	25,020	47,062	45,646	41,456
1990	60,420	53,338	77,149	23,196	38,790	45,193	40,929
1991	59,014	52,873	73,237	22,186	36,669	44,077	40,036

¹ Includes families with head less than age 65.² Includes families with children less than age 18 living at home.³ Includes families with only children 18 years of age and over and/or other relatives.⁴ Includes families with head aged 65 years or over.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-207.

Table 3.2

Low-income families, by family structure, 1981-1991

	Non-elderly families ¹						Elderly families ⁴
	Two-parent families with children ²	Married couples without children	Other couples ³	Lone-parent families ²		Other	
				Female head	Male head		
%							
1981	9.7	7.7	4.5	54.8	18.4	17.7	21.9
1982	11.3	9.2	5.0	60.9	26.3	19.6	15.7
1983	12.3	10.2	6.2	61.7	28.5	24.4	17.2
1984	12.6	10.2	6.5	62.8	27.9	20.4	17.7
1985	11.3	8.9	5.1	62.5	27.5	21.3	16.3
1986	10.8	9.5	4.8	58.8	25.4	18.5	15.1
1987	10.1	9.0	4.9	59.0	18.0	18.0	14.1
1988	8.9	8.1	3.4	56.7	22.8	19.1	13.4
1989	8.5	7.6	3.2	52.9	19.4	16.3	11.0
1990	9.6	8.3	3.3	60.6	27.1	18.5	8.2
1991	10.7	9.3	4.0	61.9	24.4	17.9	9.0

¹ Includes families with head less than age 65.² Includes families with children less than age 18 living at home.³ Includes families with only children 18 years of age and over and/or other relatives.⁴ Includes families with head aged 65 years or over.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-207.

Table 3.3

Average income and incidence of low income for selected family types, by number of earners, 1991

	% of all families	Average income	% with low income
		\$	
All families:			
No earner	14.6	26,552	34.8
One earner	22.0	40,030	21.8
Two earners	45.9	58,773	6.0
Three or more earners	17.5	76,989	2.5
Total	100.0	53,131	13.1
Non-elderly two-parent families with children less than age 18:			
No earner	2.0	16,812	89.0
One earner	19.3	43,063	24.0
Two earners	57.3	59,805	6.4
Three or more earners	21.5	75,082	3.0
Total	100.0	59,014	10.7
Female lone-parent families:			
No earner	34.5	13,470	95.1
One earner	50.4	24,065	48.0
Two or more earners	15.1	35,871	32.3
Total	100.0	22,186	61.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-207; and Survey of Consumer Finances.

Table 3.4

Families, by number of earners, 1975-1991

	Number of earners					Total number of families
	None	One	Two	Three or more	Total	
			%			000s
1975	10.3	35.9	40.3	13.5	100.0	5,610
1981 ¹	10.5	27.8	43.9	17.8	100.0	6,384
1986 ¹	13.0	24.6	45.0	17.3	100.0	6,780
1991	14.6	22.0	45.9	17.5	100.0	7,266

¹ Revised estimates.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-207; and Survey of Consumer Finances.

Table 3.5
Composition of family income, 1971-1991

	Wages and salaries	Net income from self-employment	Investment income	Transfer payments	Other income	Total
	%					
1971	81.7	5.9	4.3	6.1	2.0	100.0
1976 ¹	77.6	8.2	4.4	7.9	1.9	100.0
1981 ¹	76.9	5.9	6.8	8.0	2.4	100.0
1986 ¹	74.5	5.8	5.7	10.3	3.7	100.0
1987	74.5	6.6	4.9	10.0	4.0	100.0
1988	76.1	5.5	4.7	10.0	3.7	100.0
1989	74.3	6.1	5.6	9.9	4.1	100.0
1990	73.8	5.3	5.7	10.7	4.4	100.0
1991	72.7	5.7	5.1	12.0	4.4	100.0

¹ Revised estimates.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-207; and Survey of Consumer Finances.

Table 3.6
Distribution of family expenditures,¹ by family structure, 1990

	Married-couple families						Lone-parent families		
	Without children			With children					
	Total \$	\$ per person	%	Total \$	\$ per person	%	Total \$	\$ per person	%
Food	5,669	2,849	11.5	7,902	2,085	12.8	5,198	2,046	15.8
Shelter	8,045	4,043	16.3	9,917	2,617	16.0	6,300	2,480	19.2
Household furnishings/operation	3,260	1,638	6.6	4,487	1,184	7.2	2,564	1,009	7.8
Clothing	2,407	1,210	4.9	3,520	929	5.7	2,158	850	6.6
Transportation	5,981	3,006	12.1	7,329	1,934	11.8	4,222	1,662	12.9
Health/personal care	1,700	854	3.4	2,200	580	3.5	1,481	583	4.5
Recreation/reading/education	2,994	1,504	6.1	4,098	1,081	6.6	2,373	934	7.2
Tobacco/alcohol	1,347	677	2.7	1,541	407	2.5	966	380	2.9
Security ²	2,173	1,092	4.4	3,062	808	4.9	1,183	466	3.6
Other	4,192	2,106	8.5	3,129	826	5.1	1,604	631	4.9
Taxes	11,502	5,780	23.3	14,775	3,898	23.8	4,781	1,882	14.6
Total	49,270	24,759	100.0	61,960	16,348	100.0	32,830	12,925	100.0

¹ Data are for 17 metropolitan areas.

² Includes life insurance premiums, pension contributions and unemployment insurance.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 62-555.

SECTION 4: HOUSING AND HOUSEHOLD AMENITIES

Home ownership

The majority of Canadian families own their home. In 1992, 74% of all single-family households¹¹ were homeowners. This was up slightly from 73% in 1986. (Chart 4.1)

As well, almost half of all single-family households which own their home are mortgage-free. In 1992, 36% of all family units owned a home without a mortgage, while 39% owned a home with a mortgage.

Husband-wife households are, by far, the most likely family units to own their home. In 1992, 79% of these households with children¹² and 72% of those without children owned their home. In contrast, just

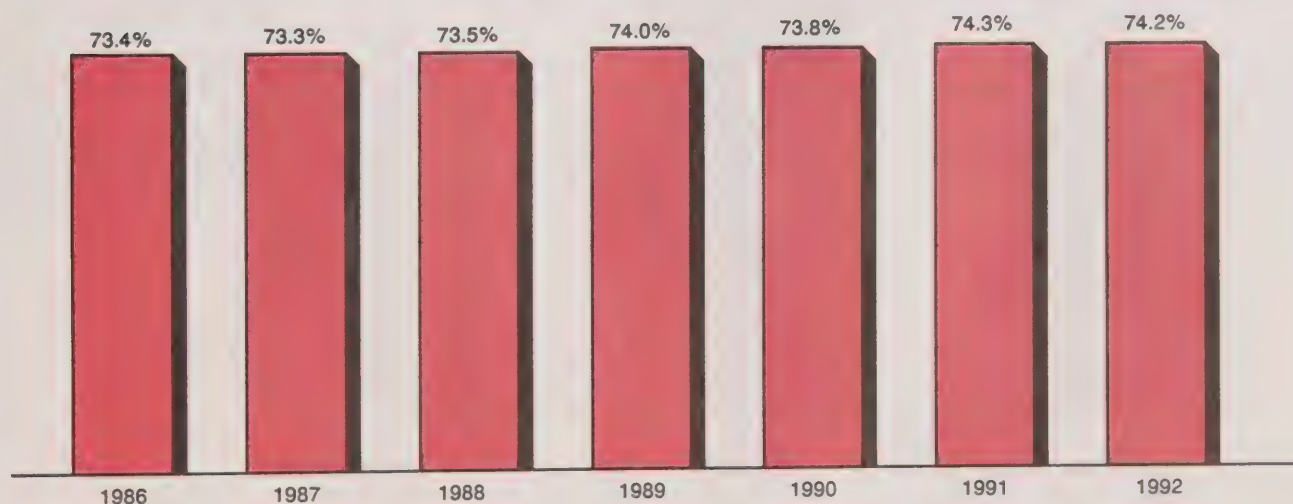
32% of households headed by a lone parent owned their home. (Table 4.1).

Husband-wife families without children, though, are the most likely households to be mortgage-free. Almost two-thirds of these families which owned their home in 1992 did not have a mortgage. This compared with only around a third of homeowners among both non-lone-parent households with children and households headed by a lone parent.

¹¹ Refers to a household comprised of a single economic family, that is, a group of individuals related by blood, marriage, or adoption, without any unrelated individuals living in the dwelling.

¹² Includes never-married children less than age 18 living at home.

Chart 4.1 Proportion of single-family households owning their own homes, 1986-1992



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-218.

The large proportion of mortgage-free husband-wife households without children reflects, at least in part, the fact that many of these are older families who have paid off their mortgages.

Renters

Slightly over a quarter (26%) of all single-family households rent their living accommodations. (Table 4.1) In contrast to ownership rates, this figure is down slightly from 1986 when 27% of family units were renters.

Considering their low rate of home ownership, it is not surprising that families headed by lone parents are the most likely to rent. In 1992, 68% of these households rented their living accommodations, compared with only 28% of husband-wife households without children and just 21% of other families with children.

Age of housing

The majority of single-family households in Canada live in older homes. In 1992, over half (52%) of all households lived in dwellings built before 1971. At

the same time, 37% lived in houses built between 1971 and 1985, while 11% lived in units built since 1986. (Table 4.1)

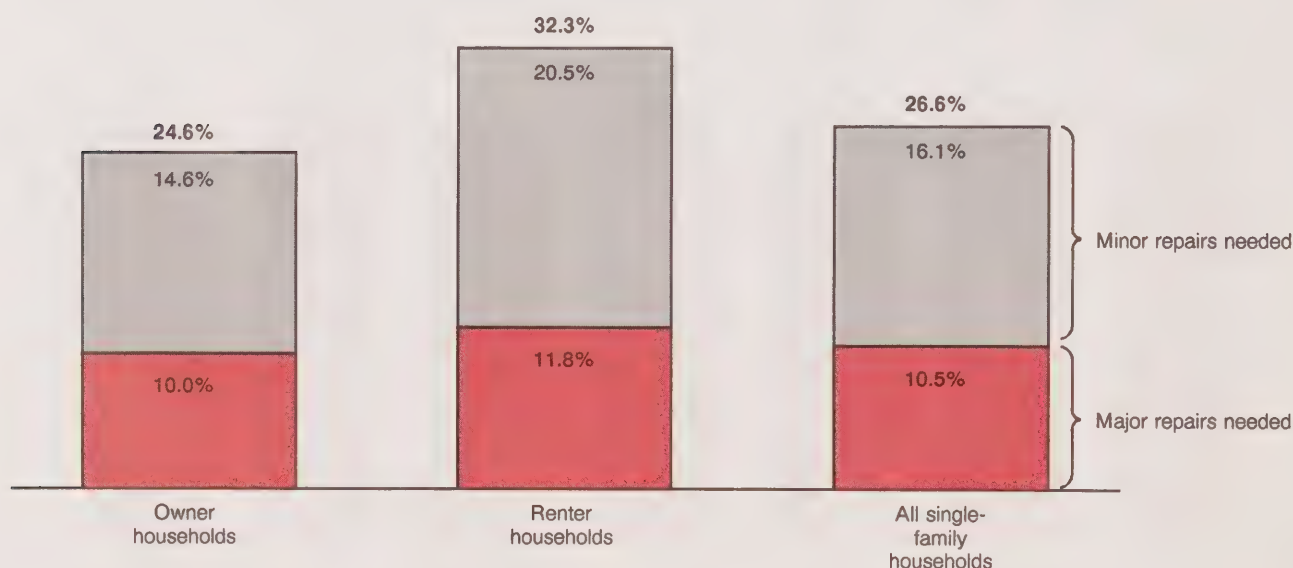
Non-lone-parent households with children are more likely than other families to live in newer homes. In 1992, 56% of these families lived in houses built after 1970, compared with 45% of lone-parent households and 43% of husband-wife households without children.

Homes needing repairs

Not surprisingly, given that such a large proportion of families live in older homes, a significant share of dwellings require some repairs. In 1992, the dwellings of 27% of single-family households needed repairs. Of these, 11% required major repairs, while 16% needed only minor work. (Chart 4.2)

People renting their accommodations are more likely than owner households to live in dwellings needing repairs. In 1992, 32% of the homes of renter households needed repairs, compared with 25% of owner households.

Chart 4.2 Percentage of dwellings of single-family households needing repairs, by tenure, 1992



Source: Statistics Canada, Household Facilities and Equipment Survey.

Single-family households which rented their living accommodations were also somewhat more likely to need major housing repairs (12%), compared with those who owned their dwelling (10%). At the same time, the dwellings of 21% of renter households versus 15% of home-owners needed minor repairs.

Living space

Most Canadian families live in relatively spacious homes. In 1992, over 60% of all single-family households lived in accommodations where there were two or more rooms per person. Another 38% lived in dwellings which averaged between one and two rooms per person, while only 1% of all households had less than one room per person. Overall, the dwellings of Canadian families had an average of 2.0 rooms per person. (Table 4.1)

Husband-wife households with no children have the most spacious living accommodations. In 1992, these households had an average of 2.9 rooms per person. In comparison, lone-parent households had 2.0 rooms per person, while non-lone-parent households with children averaged only 1.7 rooms per person.

Selected amenities

Almost all family units in Canada have what are generally considered essential household features. Indeed, in 1992, virtually 100% of single-family households had bath/shower facilities, flush toilets and refrigerators, while 99% had telephones and colour televisions. This situation prevailed for all family types. (Table 4.2)

The large majority of single-family households also had basic equipment, such as a smoke detector (92%), automatic washing machine (87%), clothes dryer (85%), microwave oven (83%), video cassette recorder (82%) and freezer (68%) in 1992. As well,

56% of households had a fire extinguisher, 53% had a dishwasher and 29% had an air conditioner. A sizeable minority of single-family households, 24% in 1992, also had a home computer.

Most Canadian families also own a vehicle. In 1992, 91% of all households had at least one vehicle, and over half (52%) owned two or more vehicles.

Amenities by family structure

There is considerable variation between different types of families in terms of their likelihood of having many household amenities. Non-lone-parent households with children, for example, are somewhat more likely than husband-wife households without children to have most household amenities. (Table 4.2)

At the same time, lone-parent households were considerably less likely than other families with children to have many of these features. In fact, the proportions of lone-parent households with a video cassette recorder (76%), microwave oven (72%), automatic washing machine (71%), clothes dryer (70%), freezer (43%) and dishwasher (32%) were 15-30 percentage points below those for non-lone-parent households with children in 1992.

Lone-parent family households are also less likely than other households with children to have safety devices such as smoke detectors and portable fire extinguishers. They are also less likely than other families to have a computer. In 1992, just 14% of lone-parent households had a home computer, compared with 31% of non-lone-parent households with children.

Lone-parent households are also the least likely family units to own a vehicle. In 1992, only 66% of these households had at least one vehicle, compared with 96% of other households with children.

Table 4.1
Housing characteristics, by type of household, 1992

	Non-lone- parent family households with children ¹	Husband-wife family households without children	Lone-parent family households ¹	All single- family households
	%			
Tenure:				
Owned	78.6	72.4	31.8	74.2
with mortgage	53.9	26.0	21.5	38.6
without mortgage	24.6	46.4	10.3	35.6
Rented	21.4	27.6	68.2	25.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Period of construction:				
Before 1941	13.7	15.7	16.7	15.3
1941-1950	5.7	7.7	6.9	6.9
1951-1960	9.7	14.5	10.9	12.2
1961-1970	15.5	19.0	20.6	18.0
1971-1980	29.3	23.3	28.0	26.5
1981-1985	13.1	8.8	9.2	10.3
1986 and after	13.1	11.1	7.6	10.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average number of rooms per person	1.67	2.93	1.95	2.03
Dwellings with:				
2 or more rooms per person	34.2	91.7	60.1	60.7
1-2 rooms per person	63.2	8.2	38.9	37.9
Less than 1 room per person	2.7	0.1	1.1	1.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ Includes households with never-married children less than age 18 living at home.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-218.

Table 4.2

Percentage of households with selected amenities, by type of household, 1992

	Non-lone- parent family households with children ¹	Husband-wife family households without children	Lone-parent family households ¹	All single- family households
	%			
Bath facilities	99.6	99.7	99.8	99.7
Flush toilet	99.7	99.8	99.8	99.7
Refrigerator	99.7	99.7	99.1	99.7
Automatic washing machine	92.0	82.5	70.7	86.8
Clothes dryer	90.7	80.9	70.2	85.0
Dishwasher	59.2	48.6	31.6	52.7
Freezer	73.3	64.3	43.4	68.0
Microwave oven	87.8	79.7	72.0	83.0
Air conditioner	28.1	29.1	17.1	28.7
Smoke detector	93.9	92.0	86.9	92.3
Fire extinguisher	60.4	55.9	33.2	56.4
Colour television	99.0	98.4	98.3	98.7
Telephone	99.4	99.5	96.9	99.3
Video cassette recorder	91.0	71.9	75.8	82.2
Home computer	30.8	15.1	13.9	23.7
Owned vehicles:				
one	35.3	47.4	54.9	39.1
two or more	60.4	43.7	11.1	52.3
Total with vehicle	95.7	91.1	66.0	91.4

¹ Includes households with never-married children less than age 18 living at home.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-218.

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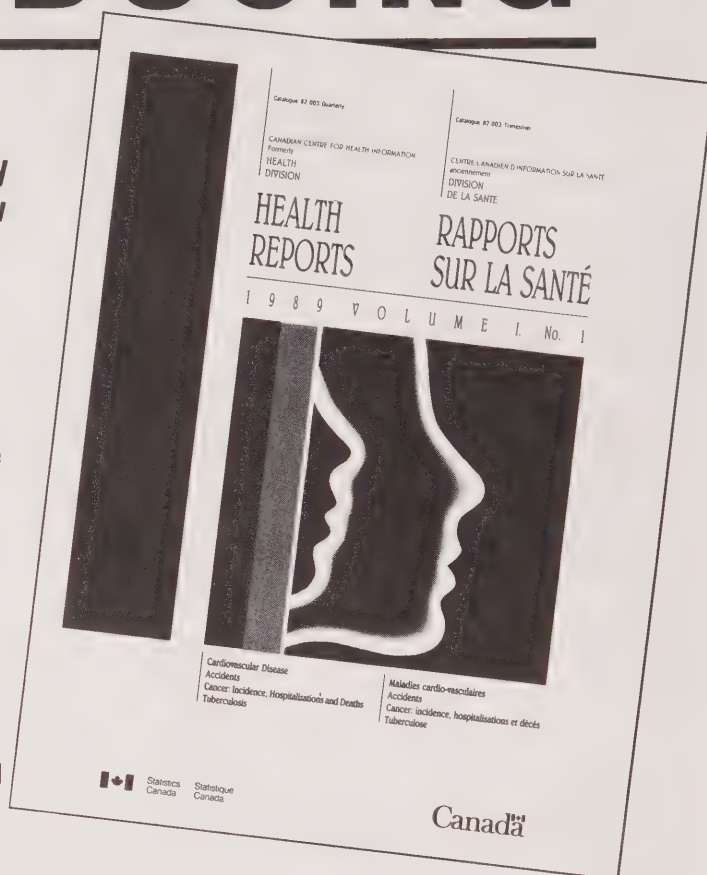
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SECTION 5: TIME ALLOCATION

Productive activity

Men and women in families have quite different time use patterns. Men generally spend more hours on paid work and education while women spend more hours on unpaid work activities, particularly domestic work activity and primary child care. In fact, even when employed, women still retain primary responsibility for domestic work and child care.

In 1992, employed men with a partner and children under 5 years of age spent 6.8 hours per day on paid work or education, while the figure was 6.6 hours for those whose children were aged 5 and over. Both totals were over an hour longer than those for comparable women. (Table 5.1)

As well, even when there are no children present, employed men with a partner spent an average of an hour more per day on paid work or education than comparable women. At the same time, female lone parents generally spend less time than other parents on paid work and/or education.

In contrast, women spend considerable amounts of time on unpaid work including domestic work, primary child care, shopping, and volunteer activities. Among women whose main activity was keeping house, those with a partner and at least one child under age 5 devoted an average of 8.5 hours per day to unpaid work activities in 1992, while the figures were 7.8 hours for lone parents with young children, 7 hours for both women with partners and lone parents with children aged 5 or over, and 6 hours per day for women with partners but no children.

As well, even when employed, women continue to spend large amounts of time on unpaid work activities. In 1992, employed women with a partner and at least one child less than age 5 devoted over 5 hours per day to these activities, while the figure was over 4 hours for these women with children aged 5 or more.

The total time employed women spent on unpaid work was well above that for their partners. Employed women with young children devoted an

average of two hours more per day to these activities than comparable men, while among those with children aged 5 or over the difference was about an hour and a half a day.

Domestic work activities such as preparing meals, cleaning, and laundry and primary child care make up the largest shares of the time women spend doing unpaid work. For example, in 1992, women with a partner and at least one child less than age 5 whose main work activity was keeping house averaged 3.9 hours per day on domestic work and 3.2 hours on primary child care.

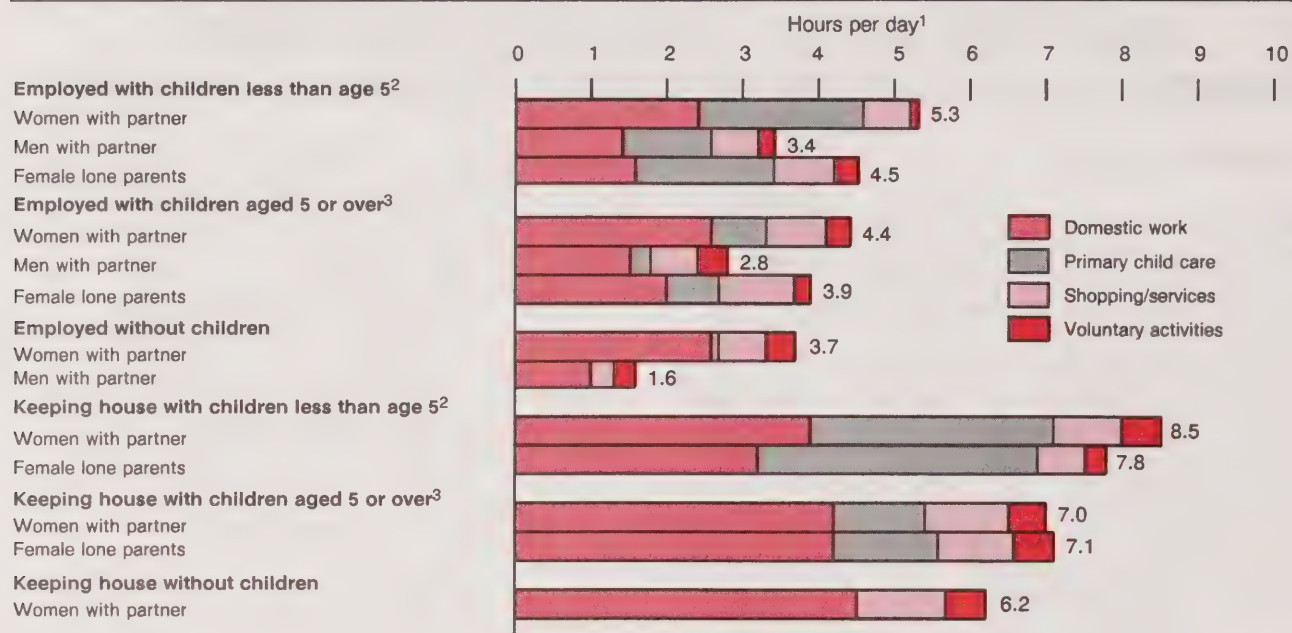
Comparable women with children aged 5 or over spent even more time per day on domestic work, 4.2 hours per day, however, they also devoted less time, just 1.2 hours per day, than mothers with younger children to primary child care activities. Similar patterns appear for women with partners and older children and for female lone parents. (Chart 5.1)

As with overall unpaid work, women devote considerably more time to both domestic work activities and primary child care than comparable men whatever their family and/or employment status.

It should also be noted that the time use information discussed in this section includes only the respondent's main or primary activity at any one time. To the extent that many household activities, such as child care, are actually done simultaneously with other activities, it is likely that the time devoted to these secondary activities is under-reported.

Free time

Employed women with a partner generally have the least amount of free time of any spouses/parents. In 1992, these women with children averaged around three-quarters of an hour less free time per day than their partners, while the difference was over an hour and a quarter among people without children. Women with partners also have considerably less free time than comparable female lone parents. In addition, whatever their marital status, women whose main activity is keeping house have more free time than employed women.

Chart 5.1 Time spent on unpaid work activities, by main activity and family status, 1992¹ Averaged over a 7-day week.² At least one child less than age 5.³ Youngest child aged 5 or over.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1992.

Table 5.1

Time spent on selected activities, by main activity and family status, 1992

	Total productive activity ¹	Total paid work/ education	Total unpaid work ²	Personal care	Free time
hours per day ³					
Those with children under age 5⁴:					
Employed					
Female lone parents	9.3	4.8	4.5	10.0	4.8
Women with partner	10.6	5.4	5.3	10.0	3.4
Men with partner	10.2	6.8	3.4	9.6	4.1
Keeping house					
Female lone parents	8.0	0.1	7.8	10.0	6.1
Women with partner	9.1	0.6	8.5	10.4	4.5
Those with children age 5 or over⁵:					
Employed					
Female lone parents	9.6	5.6	3.9	10.2	4.2
Women with partner	9.9	5.4	4.4	10.2	4.0
Men with partner	9.3	6.6	2.8	9.9	4.8
Keeping house					
Female lone parents	7.3	0.1	7.1	10.9	5.8
Women with partner	7.8	0.8	7.0	10.7	5.5
Those without children:					
Employed					
Women with partner	9.9	6.3	3.7	10.3	3.8
Men with partner	8.9	7.3	1.6	10.0	5.1
Keeping house					
Women with partner	6.4	0.2	6.2	10.6	7.0

¹ Includes paid work, education and unpaid work.² Includes domestic work, primary child care, shopping and services and civic and voluntary activities.³ Figures averaged over a 7-day week.⁴ At least one child less than age 5.⁵ Youngest child aged 5 or over.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1992.



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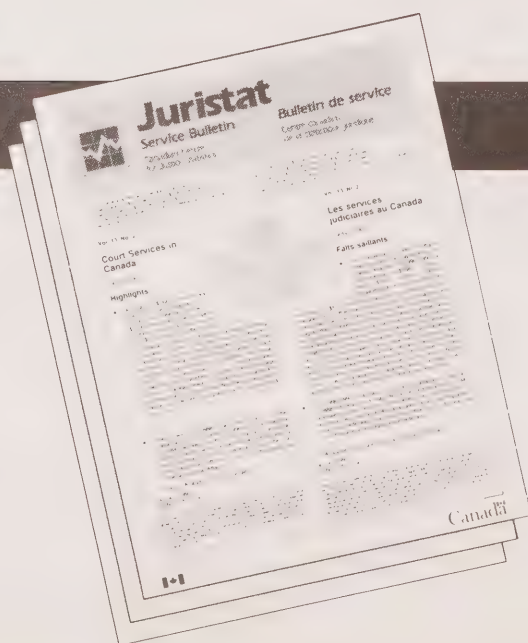
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SECTION 6: FAMILY VIOLENCE

Domestic homicides

In 1991, there were a total of 199 homicides involving victims and offenders who were related to one another through marriage, common-law union or other form of kinship.¹³ Together, these murders accounted for 34% of all solved homicides in Canada that year. (Table 6.1).

While the number of family-related homicides in 1991 (199) was the highest recorded since 1987, the number of these homicides was actually down slightly from the mid-1980s. Between 1982 and 1987, for example, there was an average of 209 family-related homicides each year.

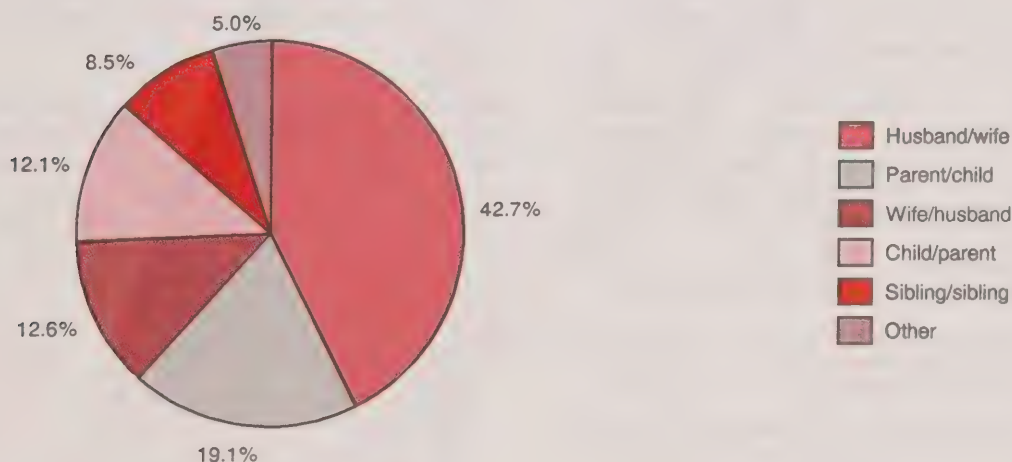
Females are the victims in the majority of family-related homicides. In 1991, there were 122 female

victims of family-related murders, compared with only 77 male victims.

Wives killed by their husbands or common-law partners represent the single largest group of victims of family-related homicide. In 1991, 43% of all family-related homicides involved a wife killed by her husband or common-law partner, while only 13% of such cases involved a husband killed by his wife or common-law partner. Another 19% involved a child killed by a parent, 12% involved a parent killed by a child and 9% involved a sibling killed by a sibling. The remaining 5% of these homicides involved other family members. (Chart 6.1)

¹³ For more information on this topic, see *Statistics Canada Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 12, No. 18.*

Chart 6.1 Distribution of solved family-related homicides, by accused/ victim relationship, 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

There was a knowledge by the police of previous domestic violence in 44% of all family-related homicides. As well, there was a history of previous domestic violence in over half (53%) of all cases in which a husband murdered his wife or common-law partner.

Children also make up a large share of the victims of family-related homicides. Over three-quarters of the 542 children under the age of 12 murdered between 1980 and 1989 were killed by a family member: two-thirds were killed by a parent, approximately one-third each by mothers and fathers; 3% were killed by a step- or foster parent; and 7% were murdered by other relatives, such as aunts/uncles, siblings, cousins, or other relatives. A further 13% of all child victims were killed by an acquaintance, while only 11% were killed by a stranger.¹⁴

Very young children tend to be at greater risk of homicide than older children. Indeed, almost a third of all child homicide victims in the 1980-1989 period were murdered before they reached their first birthday and over 70% were killed before reaching age five.

Wife assault

Women are also often the victims of non-lethal assaults by spouses or former spouses. In 1991, 43% of adult female victims of violence known to the police were victimized by a marital partner, compared with only 3% of adult male victims.¹⁵ One Canadian survey¹⁶ estimated that in 1987 there were 15 such assaults for every 1,000 women aged 15 and over.¹⁷ Women who are separated or divorced from their spouse have higher rates of victimization than married women. According to the 1987 General Social Survey, there were 38 incidents of domestic violence per 1,000 separated or divorced women, compared with 6 per 1,000 married women in 1987. What is unclear from these data, however, is whether

the abuse precipitated the separation or the separation was a causal factor in the abuse. It is also possible that the higher reported rate of victimization against separated/divorced women is explained by the fact that these women are in a better position than women who are still living with a violent partner to describe the abuse to an interviewer over the telephone. Separated/divorced women may also be more willing than women who have remained in a violent marriage to define their abuse as criminal and to include it in a survey about criminal victimization.

Domestic assaults against children

Children are also at risk of being assaulted by a family member. Of all violent crimes¹⁸ committed against children under 12 years of age and reported to the police between January 1988 and September 1990, 41% were perpetrated by a member of their family: 24% involved a parent and 17% involved another family member. (Chart 6.2)

In terms of specific violent offences committed against children, family members were responsible for 48% of sexual assaults; 29% of other sexual offences such as sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, and sexual exploitation; 30% of non-sexual assaults; and 57% of other violent violations such as attempted murder, robbery, abduction and child abandonment.

The high proportion of sexual assaults against children committed by family members is of particular concern because these offences made up about half of all reported violent crimes committed against children.

Girls are generally more likely than boys to be victimized by a family member. For example, 48% of sexual assaults against girls were committed by either a parent or other family member, compared with 33% of similar crimes against boys. At the same time, the proportion of girls (45%) who were victims of a non-sexual assault by a family member was almost twice the proportion for boys (24%).

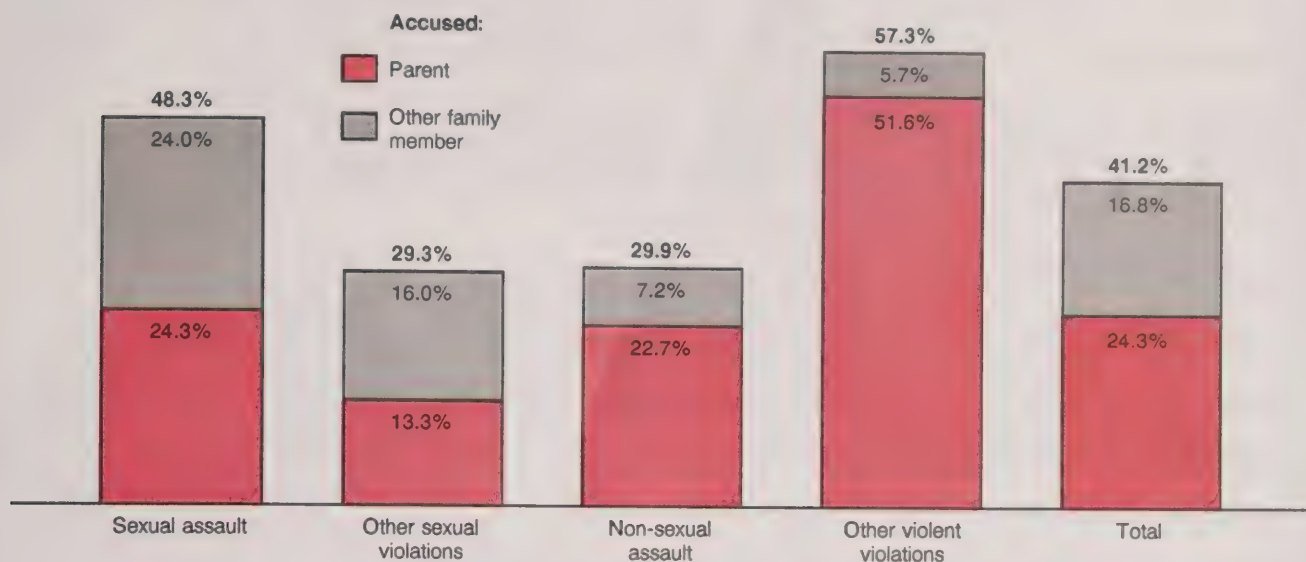
¹⁴ Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 11, No.8.

¹⁵ Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 12, No.21.

¹⁶ These data are from the 1987 General Social Survey. For more information on the results of this and other related surveys see Statistics Canada Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 10, No.7.

¹⁷ It should be noted that traditional victimization surveys like this one have historically under-counted violence against women.

¹⁸ Includes data from police departments using the "revised" Uniform Crime Reporting Survey which captures information on all criminal incidents reported to the police. Because the "revised" survey was in its infancy at the time this report was compiled, data from only 7 police departments are covered in this survey. As such, the data are not a representative sample, and therefore, are not indicative of any national trends.

Chart 6.2 Percentage of selected violent crimes against children committed by a family member

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. II, No. 8.

Table 6.1
Solved family-related homicides, by sex of victim, 1981-1991

	Victims				Total number of family-related homicides	Family-related homicides as % of all solved homicides
	Female		Male			
	Number	% of family-related homicides	Number	% of family-related homicides		
1981	108	55.1	88	44.9	196	36.3
1982	116	55.8	92	44.2	208	37.7
1983	124	57.1	93	42.9	217	39.2
1984	109	55.3	88	44.7	197	38.2
1985	130	57.5	96	42.5	226	39.9
1986	110	57.6	81	42.4	191	39.3
1987	118	55.4	95	44.6	213	39.7
1988	98	56.6	75	43.4	173	35.8
1989	119	60.4	78	39.6	197	36.4
1990	106	55.8	84	44.2	190	37.0
1991	122	61.3	77	38.7	199	34.2

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

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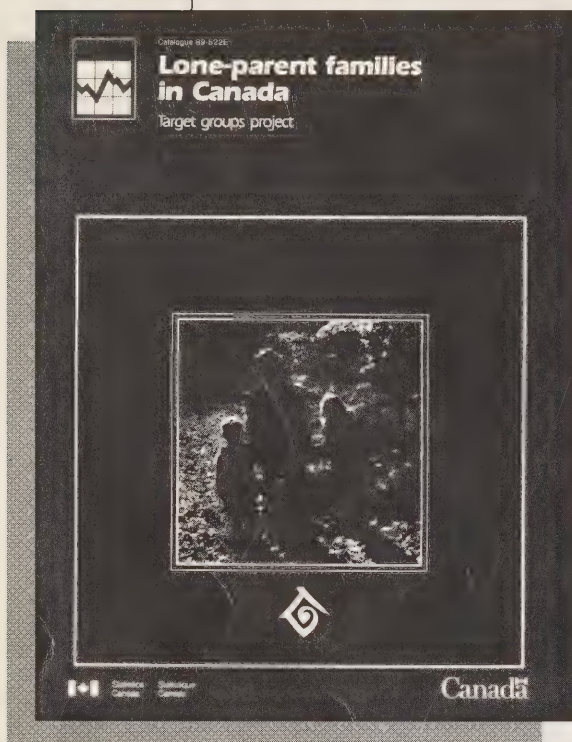
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